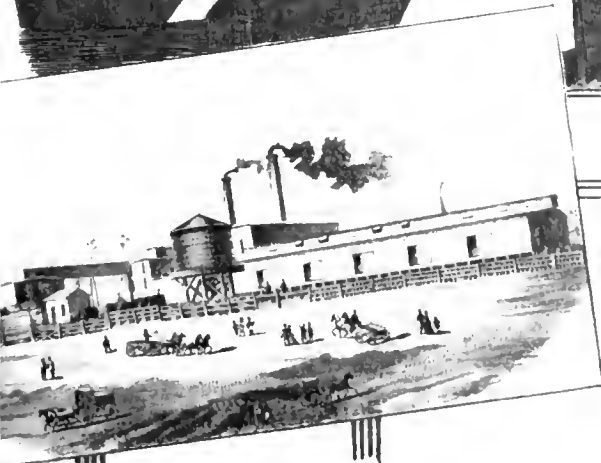
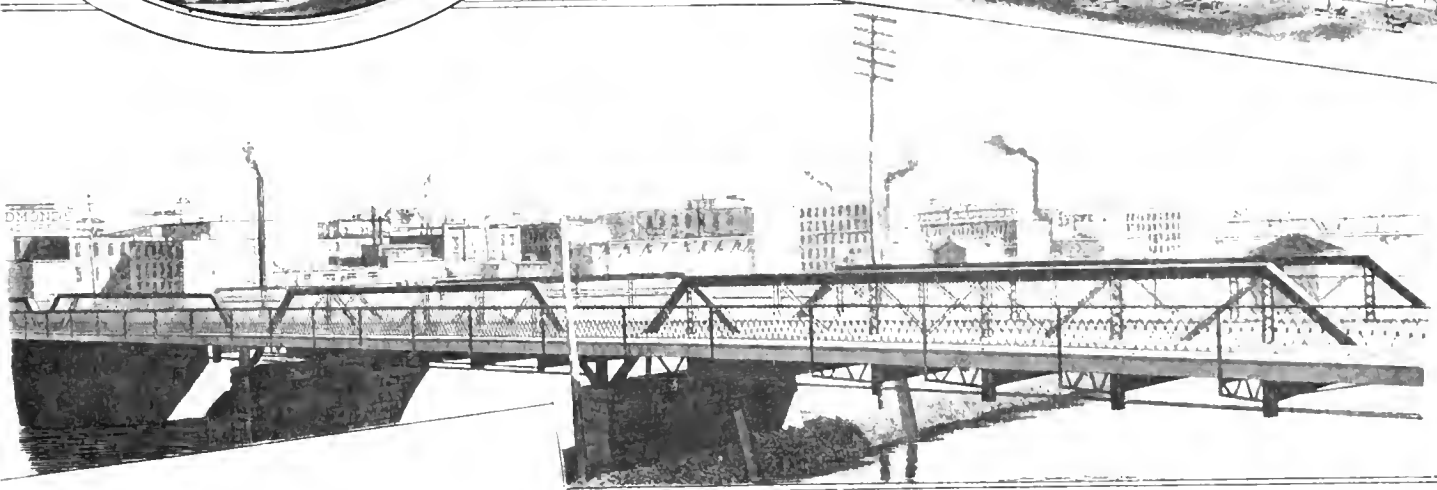
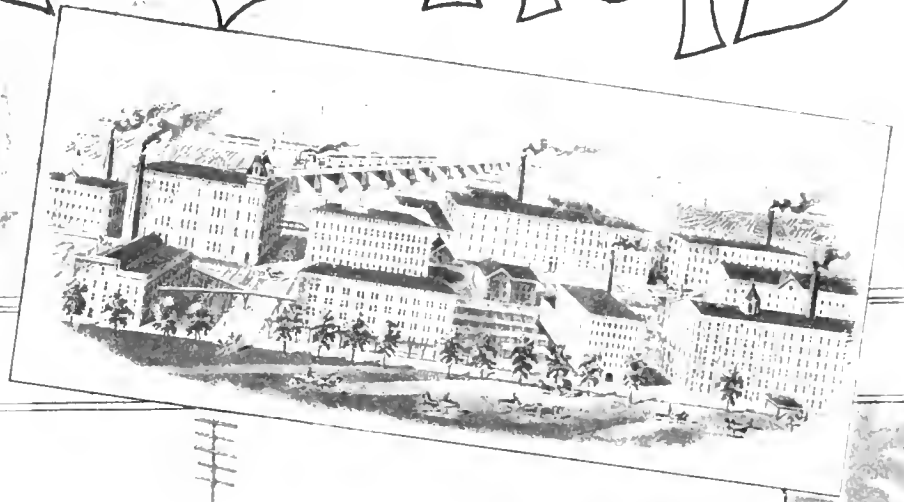
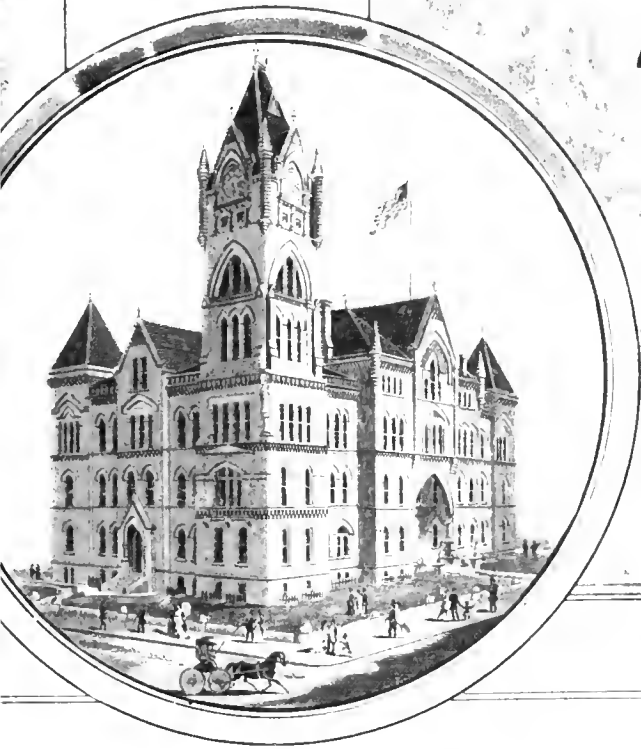


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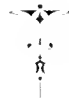
GRAND · RAPIDS · AS · IT · IS



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GRAND RAPIDS

AS IT IS.



PUBLISHED BY THE

BOARD OF TRADE



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1888.

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TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS:

In compiling the pamphlet which has been intrusted to your hands by the Board of Trade, it is the desire of that honorable body that you make use of such material as may be necessary to show to the uninformed person the City of "Grand Rapids as it is." It is their wish that no extravagant claims be put forth as to the magnitude of the mercantile, manufacturing and social advantages of the city; that no wild speculative prophecies as to the future greatness of Grand Rapids be indulged in, but that your work be characterized with facts moderately expressed and which will stand the fullest investigation. The Board of Trade calls your attention to the fact that our fiscal institutions, jobbing and manufacturing trades are conducted on correct business principles; that there has never been an attempt to "boom" the interests of the city for purely speculative purposes; that it is a hive of industry, a city of homes, a center of culture; that its growth has been steady and solid from the day of its incorporation.

These suggestions should indicate to you the character of the matter that is desired for publication under the above caption. There is no impropriety in stating this Board invites personal inquiry or correspondence from individuals, firms or corporations contemplating or desiring to make a change of location, and you are requested to give space in the work to the mention of such industries and trades as could be established with fair prospects of success in Grand Rapids.

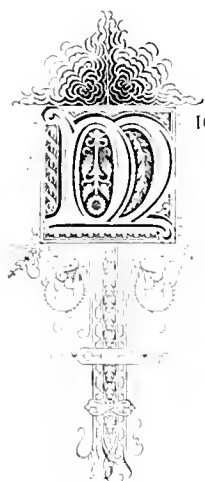
Yours sincerely,

H. D. C. VAN ASMUS,

SECRETARY OF BOARD OF TRADE.



Michigan and its Resources.



MICHIGAN derives its name from the Indian words *Mitchi-Sagayegan*, which signify "lake country"—a peculiarly appropriate term, since the State is, to a considerable extent, surrounded by water. From its discovery (about 1610) it made very slow progress in settlement and population up to 1820. Prior to 1763, the territory was claimed, or governed, by the French. In the year last named it was ceded to Great Britain; and in 1783, at the close of the revolutionary struggle, it was transferred to the United States.

Up to the year 1802 it was a part of the great Northwest territory. Various acts of Congress altered the boundaries, until, in 1837, when Michigan was formally admitted into the Union, its present limits were defined.

THE FIRST SETTLEMENTS.

As early as 1612, French navigators skirted the shores of Michigan, and Jesuit missions are said to have been founded in the Upper Peninsula in 1641. FATHER MARQUETTE founded a mission at Sault-de Ste. Marie in 1668, and another in the following year at the point now known as St. Ignace. These are regarded as the first white settlements within the present limits of the State. In 1701, CADILLAC arrived at Detroit with a company of one hundred men, one half of whom were artisans or tradesmen; and this period is characterized by Judge CAMPBELL as "the beginning of the settlement of Michigan for purposes of habitation and civil institutions."

In the year 1800, the entire northwest territory contained about 43,305 inhabitants; Wayne county contained 3,206 inhabitants, and Detroit contained about 300 houses. The only cultivated lands were contained in the strip, six miles wide, bordering on the Detroit River and the lakes, with the exception of a few hundred acres under tillage in the vicinity of Mackinaw.

WILLIAM HULL was appointed Governor of the territory in 1805, and he reached Detroit July 1 of that year. The difficulty of securing clear titles to the land operated as a serious obstacle to the settlement of Michigan. In 1807, Congress furnished relief by the passage of an act confirming in their titles all grantees or heirs prior to July 1, 1796; no tract, however, to exceed 640 acres in extent.

LEWIS CASS was appointed Territorial Governor in 1812, succeeding Gov. HULL. In 1810, the territory was allowed a delegate in Congress, and WILLIAM WOODBRIDGE, who afterwards was chosen United States Senator, was elected. By the census of 1820, it was shown that the population had doubled since 1810. The public lands were opened for sale in 1818, and

from that time on the growth and development of the territory continued at a steady and accelerating rate.

BECOMING A STATE.

The first Constitutional Convention met in Detroit on the second Monday of May, 1835. A State Constitution was adopted, which was ratified by the people, and State officers were elected on the first Monday of October, 1835. The first State Legislature met on the first Monday of November, 1835, and on the 10th of the same month LUCIUS LYON and JOHN NORVELL were elected United States Senators. The final act of Congress admitting Michigan to the Union was approved January, 26, 1837, the State being the twenty sixth admitted.

THE COPPER MINES.

The northern peninsula of the State is very rich in mineral resources, containing the most extensive and valuable copper mines in the world, and producing more iron ore than any other State in the Union. Portions of the Upper Peninsula are also covered with dense forests of valuable timber, which will be a source of great wealth in the near future.

In all respects consistent with her geographical location and physical resources, this great commonwealth ranks well up in the sisterhood of States. She has many natural advantages which others do not possess; vast wealth of forest and soil and mine; a climate remarkably mild for the latitude, and in the main salubrious; a population made up of industrious, intelligent and thrifty people; and a government wisely administered, with its burdens judiciously equalized. With all these and many minor circumstances in her favor the future of the commonwealth, from whatever point of view considered, must be regarded as exceptionally auspicious.

In the production of iron, plaster, copper, lumber and salt, Michigan stands first in the list of States. Tabulated statistics are given elsewhere in this article, covering a long period of years, and showing the growth of these great industries from their infancy to the present time.

Michigan ranks high as a healthy State; only six States had less deaths during the census year, in proportion to population; these being, in the order named, Oregon, Minnesota, Nevada, Florida, Iowa and West Virginia. Michigan has held her present rank, in this regard, for forty years.

The flouring interest is among the more important in the State, the total number of mills being 700, with a capital of \$7,704,404, employing 2,251 men, with an annual product valued at \$23,549,875. The States of New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Ohio, Missouri, Indiana and Wisconsin are the only ones exceeding Michigan in the value of this product.

The population of Michigan in 1880, as shown by the United States census of that year, was 28.5 to the square mile. In 1870 it was 20.6; in 1860 it was 13; in 1850 it was 6.9; and in 1840 it was 3.7.

MICHIGAN AND ITS RESOURCES.

Year.	1870.	1880.	1890.	1900.	1910.	1920.
Population, total.....	1,000,000	1,500,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	3,000,000	3,500,000
Population, white.....	900,000	1,400,000	1,900,000	2,400,000	2,900,000	3,400,000
Population, colored.....	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Population, foreign born.....	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
Population, native born.....	900,000	1,400,000	1,900,000	2,400,000	2,900,000	3,400,000
Population, under 16 years of age.....	400,000	500,000	600,000	700,000	800,000	900,000
Population, 16 years of age and over.....	600,000	1,000,000	1,400,000	1,800,000	2,200,000	2,600,000
Population, male.....	500,000	750,000	1,000,000	1,250,000	1,500,000	1,750,000
Population, female.....	500,000	750,000	1,000,000	1,250,000	1,500,000	1,750,000
Population, under 16 years of age, male.....	200,000	250,000	300,000	350,000	400,000	450,000
Population, under 16 years of age, female.....	200,000	250,000	300,000	350,000	400,000	450,000
Population, 16 years of age and over, male.....	300,000	500,000	700,000	900,000	1,100,000	1,300,000
Population, 16 years of age and over, female.....	300,000	500,000	700,000	900,000	1,100,000	1,300,000
Population, male, under 16 years of age.....	100,000	125,000	150,000	175,000	200,000	225,000
Population, male, 16 years of age and over.....	400,000	625,000	850,000	1,075,000	1,300,000	1,525,000
Population, female, under 16 years of age.....	100,000	125,000	150,000	175,000	200,000	225,000
Population, female, 16 years of age and over.....	400,000	625,000	850,000	1,075,000	1,300,000	1,525,000

* U. S. Census of Wisconsin, 1900, and Michigan with Ohio, 1900.
 † U. S. Census of Michigan, 1900.

The number of families in the State is returned at 403,779, and the total number of dwellings at 304,737. The average number of persons to each family is 4.50, and to each dwelling 4.00. The number of families in cities is returned at 168,357, and the number of dwellings in cities at 93,004.

The number of native inhabitants is returned at 1,357,030; foreign born, 186,968; of city unknown, 9,031. The increase of native population since 1880 is 109,210, and of foreign born 68,490. The number of males of voting age in the State is 538,177, of whom 150,178 reside in the incorporated cities. The number of inhabitants of school ages is 506,803, or 32 per cent. of the total population. The number of persons of military age (18 to 45) is 406,583.

The number of wage workers in Michigan June 1, 1884, was returned at 609,027, of whom 64,300 are males and 4,637 are females. The number of males engaged in agriculture is 237,102, females, 1,000. The number of males engaged in agriculture is 32 per cent., in professional and personal service 15 per cent., in trade and transportation 9 per cent., and in manufacturing, mechanical and mining industries 20 per cent. of the total male population 10 years old and over.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.

Among the most important factors in the development of the State is its school system. The following table shows the growth of the system during the half century from 1830 to 1880, inclusive:

Year.	1830.	1840.	1850.	1860.	1870.	1880.
Number of districts.....	70	100	108	123	137	150
Number of teachers.....	80	150	1870	18,817	12,310	16,406
Number of scholars.....	100	100	1,087	112,274	110,886	148,438
Number of scholars, under 16 years of age.....	124	1,087	7,921	216,802	168,388	200,500
Number of scholars, 16 years of age and over.....	18	1,178	11,014	384,504	1,395,228	1,703,938
Number of scholars, male.....	150	6,252	13,009	596,221	1,017,984	1,200,000
Number of scholars, female.....	171	6,978	15,026	600,000	1,382,000	1,500,000

In the foregoing table is included the school population, number of districts, value of property, collection of revenue, et cetera, at the close of the year 1880. The showing is particularly gratifying, and is one in which every citizen may justly take pride.

Number of districts.....	605,901
Number of teachers.....	116,751
Number of scholars.....	6,536
Number of scholars, under 16 years of age.....	112
Number of scholars, 16 years of age and over.....	1,225
Estimated value of school property.....	\$11,850,871.00
Average wages of teachers per month.....	7.2
Average wages of teachers per month, females.....	\$15.07
Average wages of teachers per month, males.....	31.20

Revenue from land from preceding year.....	\$1,001,451.67
Revenue from property tax, interest fund.....	762,102.78
Revenue from corporation tax on ships.....	640,217.02
Revenue from corporation tax for all purposes.....	2,796,238.81
Revenue from all other sources.....	494,133.16
Total revenue.....	\$5,634,443.44

CHURCHES.

The total number of church organizations in the State is returned at 2,804; church edifices, 2,581; and parsonages, 1,117. The following statement shows the growth of church organizations from 1870 to 1884:

	1870.	1884.
Number of church organizations.....	2,220	2,864
Number of parsonages.....	1,117	1,117
Seating capacity.....	447,476	792,411
Value of church property.....	\$8,947,491	\$13,296,151

STATE FINANCES.

The financial condition of the State is excellent, as is shown by the following statement issued by the State Treasurer. The Legislature of 1887 passed an act changing the close of the fiscal year from September 30 to June 30, hence the last report of the State Treasurer covers a period of nine months only, extending from October 1, 1886, to June 30, 1887. It contains the following figures:

Balance on hand Sept. 30, 1886.....	\$ 901,997.86
The receipts were.....	2,118,331.42
The payments were.....	\$3,060,332.28
Balance in Treasury.....	\$ 894,788.54

The outstanding bonded debt of the State is as follows:

Pa. due part of five million loan bonds, \$10,000, adjustable at \$75.57 per \$1,000 of principal and interest.....	\$ 10,562.83
War debt bonds, 7 per cent., due in 1901.....	231,000.00

The trust fund debt, composed of balances upon which the State, as trustee, pays interest for educational purposes, now is:

Agricultural College fund.....	\$ 328,065.20
Normal School fund.....	63,010.12
Primary School fund, 7 per cent.....	\$1,388,106.68
Primary School fund, 5 per cent.....	379,713.92
University fund.....	505,045.80
Aggregate balance of trust fund.....	\$1,963,821.72

TAXATION.

The total assessed valuation of property in the State, as equalized in 1886, was \$645,450,000, of which \$710,033,545.20 was on real estate, and \$138,287,518.38 was on personal estate. In 1881 the aggregate valuation of real and personal estate was \$810,000,000.

INDUSTRIES OF THE STATE.

Among the great industries of the State that of agriculture greatly exceeds every other, both as regards value of property, value of product and number of men employed. The farm productions of Michigan are valued,

in the census of 1884, at \$85,890,094. The following table shows, in a condensed form, some of the more important facts relating to the extent and condition of this great industry:

	1884.	1880.
No. of farms.....	159,605	151,008
No. of farms cultivated by owner.....	138,523	138,597
No. of acres.....	11,852,226	13,807,110
No. of acres in each farm—average.....	93.06	90.00
No. of acres improved land.....	8,971,656	8,206,802
Value of farms, including land, fences, and buildings—dollars.....	571,143,462	489,103,181
Value of farming implements and machinery—dollars.....	21,897,486	19,419,360
Value of live stock—dollars.....	70,926,248	55,720,113
No. of horses.....	416,206	378,778
No. of mules and asses.....	4,820	5,038
No. of sheep (exclusive of spring lambs).....	2,889,278	2,419,389
No. of fleeces of wool.....	2,724,789	2,189,389
No. of pounds of wool sheared.....	15,337,249	11,858,497
Average No. pounds per head.....	5.64	5.42
Maple sugar—pounds.....	1,945,863	3,423,119
Acres in apple orchards.....	312,716	.....
Acres in peach orchards.....	24,502	.....
Acres in vineyards.....	3,228	.....
Acres in nurseries.....	862	.....
Acres barley.....	54,620	.....
Acres buckwheat.....	26,118	.....
Acres Indian corn.....	1,207,684	.....
Acres oats.....	891,022	.....
Acres rye.....	51,881	.....
Acres winter wheat.....	1,684,679	.....
Acres spring wheat.....	33,074	.....
Acres pears.....	58,117	.....
Acres beans.....	48,731	.....
Acres potatoes.....	191,408	.....
Acres pasture, clover, timothy, etc.....	1,812,385	.....

The following shows the total number of persons engaged in agriculture, and in each specified branch of agriculture, as returned in the State census of 1884, and the United States census of 1880:

	1884.	1880.
Artists.....	149	57
Dairy men and dairy women.....	141	80
Farm overseers.....	85	39
Farmers.....	178,551	167,111
Farm laborers.....	55,347	70,845
Florists.....	122	84
Gardeners, nurserymen, and fruit growers.....	2,489	1,826
Stock drivers.....	294	172
Stock herders.....	31	42
Stock raisers.....	35	20
Other in agriculture.....	8	3
Total.....	237,192	240,319

It is worthy of note that much of the finest farming land in Southern and Central Michigan was regarded in the early pioneer days as worthless swamp land. These despised acres have now become the garden spot of the State.

MANUFACTURES.

As the leading industries are summarized separately the following generalization will be sufficient under this head:

	1880.	1884.
Total No. of manufacturing establishments.....	8,873	9,302
Capital invested.....	\$92,930,959	\$136,697,396
Average No. of males employed above 16 years.....	68,445	111,890
Average No. of females employed above 15 years.....	4,784	8,245
Average No. of children and youth.....	4,362	5,872
Wages paid during year ending June 1.....	\$25,313,682	\$41,213,739

The material used in 2,228 manufacturing establishments, or more than one fourth of the whole number in the State, is taken directly from the forest tree. The capital invested in such establishments, as shown by the last census, was, in 1884, \$62,303,000; average number of adult males employed, 50,044; adult females, 866; children and youth, 2,431. Wages paid during the year ending June 1st, 1884, \$17,310,227.

RAILROADS OF THE STATE.

From the fifteenth annual report of the Commissioner of Railroads, it appears that there were in Michigan, on the 1st of January, 1887, 5,577.93 miles of railroad, exclusive of 1,292.30 miles of siding, and 89 miles of second or double main track, which would bring the total mileage, computed as a single track, up to 6,958.93, or about one mile of track for each nine square miles of our territorial area, and four miles for each township of six miles square. From statistics on hand at the date of publication of his report (Nov. 1, 1877), the Commissioner estimated the total mileage of the State on the 1st of January, 1888, at 6,295.38, exclusive of sidings and double tracks. In addition should be mentioned about 500 miles of logging railroads. Much of this track is built in a substantial manner, and is utilized for general traffic.

The capital stock of the incorporated railways of the State, as stated by the reports for 1886, aggregated \$270,843,554.

The entire indebtedness of the railroads, at the beginning of the year 1887, was as follows:

Funded debt, 92.85 per cent.....	\$328,226,163.33
Floating debt, 7.13 per cent.....	25,170,551.35
Total.....	\$353,396,714.68

The total cost of our railroad properties, including equipments, at the beginning of 1887, is reported at \$570,945,425.48, representing an outlay of \$51,940.23 per mile of road. The total operating expenses, including taxes, for 1886, were \$54,210,624.19, and the total revenue of the 67 companies was \$83,868,500.20—an increase of receipts during the year of \$5,807,312.07, or 7.430 per cent.

LUMBER.

The lumbering industry of Michigan is the most extensive, in productive value, of any in the State, with the exception of agriculture. It also exceeds in magnitude that of any other State in the Union. This gigantic industry has grown up, in a large degree, within the last quarter of a century. The lumbering region, proper, of the Lower Peninsula lies north of a line running through Sanilac, Lapeer, Genesee, Shiawassee, Clinton, Ionia, Kent and Ottawa counties. In the Upper Peninsula, belts of timber abound on the principal streams.

The number of persons employed in the manufacture of lumber and shingles, in the State, during the last year, is estimated at 50,000, receiving, in the aggregate, about \$15,000,000 in wages. The capital invested in the industry is about \$60,000,000. The total product of the State, last year, was 4,192,317,778 feet of lumber, valued at \$58,370,438, and of shingles, 2,077,855,730, valued at \$6,073,387.50. Total value of product, \$65,043,825.50.

of the shingle product in the lumber and shingle industry for the past year is as follows:

1887 over 1886	1,062,917.778	3,364,117.175	3,557,438.413
1886 over 1885	2,677,855.770	2,989,124.252	2,574,675.990

The following table shows the production in 1886 over 1885, and the production in 1887 over 1886, in the shingle industry. The increase in 1886 over 1885 was 2,677,855.770 feet, and the decrease of 1887 over 1886 was 1,111,278.852.

	1886	1887
Saginaw River mills	779,090.295	555,555.730
Huron Shores mill	53,413.000	124,392.291
Michigan Central Ry. Co. & Mackinac Division	91,441.220	87,443.000
Flint and Pere Marquette mills	175,211.250	258,335.476
Cherokee mill	11,000.000	137,250.399
Manistee mill	423,131.750	695,119.321
Interurban	79,657.500	4,323.440
Muskegon mill	520,534.750	52,000.000
White Lake mill	52,000.000	136,856.750
Grand Haven and Spring Lake	41,275.000	263,774.246
Chicago and West Michigan Railroad	136,856.750	85,574.092
Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad	273,208.000	91,455.834
Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad	351,385.000	361,846.800
Miscellaneous and Lower Michigan mills	74,958.000	318,645.644
Green Bay Michigan mills	116,623.250	
Miscellaneous Upper Michigan mill	98,000.000	
Total	2,677,855.770	1,062,917.778

The shingle product of Michigan for the past year is, in detail, as follows:

	Feet.
Saginaw River mills	779,090,295
Huron Shores mill	53,413,000
Michigan Central Ry. Co. & Mackinac Division	91,441,220
Flint and Pere Marquette mills	175,211,250
Cherokee mill	11,000,000
Manistee	423,131,750
Interurban	79,657,500
Muskegon	520,534,750
White Lake	52,000,500
Grand Haven and Spring Lake	41,275,000
Chicago and West Michigan Railroad	136,856,750
Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad	273,208,000
Detroit, Lansing & Northern Railroad	351,385,000
Miscellaneous and Lower Michigan	74,958,000
Green Bay Michigan mills	116,623,250
Miscellaneous Upper Michigan	98,000,000
Total	2,677,855,770

THE MINING INDUSTRY.

In the following table is shown the aggregate number of mines in the State, the capital invested, the number of hands employed, and the total amount of wages paid:

MINES.	NUMBER OF MINES.	CAPITAL INVESTED.	NUMBER OF HANDS EMPLOYED.	TOTAL AMOUNT OF WAGES PAID.
Coal	4	\$1,750,000	264	\$71,993
Copper	25	25,417,879	9,296	3,164,548
Gold and silver	3	108,000	161	55,190
Explosive, pyrites, etc.	17	551,000	344	91,560
Iron	52	14,910,400	5,808	2,856,821
Limestone and other stones	8	25,200	223	39,423
State	1	50,000	100	55,000
Total	106	\$41,141,962	17,193	\$6,286,355

The copper mines of the State are located in the Upper Peninsula, and are said to be the richest and most extensive copper mines in the world. The mines are situated in Houghton, Ontonagon, Keweenaw and Isle Royale counties. From the following table, it will be seen that the output has increased about twelve fold since 1855. The product is given in tons of refined copper, fractions of tons being omitted:

YEAR.	TONS.	YEAR.	TONS.	YEAR.	TONS.	YEAR.	TONS.
Previous to 1855	6,492	1863	6,492	1872	12,296	1881	27,271
1855	2,904	1864	6,015	1873	15,047	1882	28,577
1856	4,108	1865	7,197	1874	17,199	1883	28,555
1857	4,765	1866	6,875	1875	18,019	1884	31,297
1858	4,579	1867	8,763	1876	19,125	1885	36,093
1859	4,463	1868	10,497	1877	19,513	1886	35,000
1860	6,031	1869	13,312	1878	20,845		
1861	7,519	1870	12,311	1879	21,425		
1862	6,793	1871	13,373	1880	21,569		

The average price of copper per pound is a trifle less than eleven cents, which would make the value of the copper product for the year 1886 (the last year for which statistics are available) about seven and a half millions of dollars. The product for the past year is probably in the neighborhood of 40,000 tons.

The iron mining interests of the State are among the most important industries. The output for 1887 was 4,393,853 tons, valued, in round numbers, at \$23,000,000. The following tabulated statement shows, more forcibly than words, the growth of this great industry from the earliest times of which any record was kept until the present:

YEAR.	TONS	YEAR	TONS	YEAR	TONS	YEAR	TONS
Years unknown		1860	114,491	1870	859,507	1880	1,948,334
Iron in the Lake		1861	49,909	1871	813,384	1881	2,125,729
Superior, Marquette		1862	124,166	1872	948,553	1882	2,656,923
and around the		1863	203,055	1873	1,195,231	1883	2,518,048
Great Lakes	75,083	1864					
and around the		1865	217,059	1874	869,331	1884	2,225,145
Great Lakes	3,000	1866					
and around the		1867	136,757	1875	881,196	1885	2,235,199
Great Lakes	1,419	1868					
and around the		1869	196,713	1876	963,311	1886	3,562,015
Great Lakes	6,796	1870					
and around the		1871	465,594	1877	1,025,129	1887	4,393,853
Great Lakes	25,646	1872					
and around the		1873	510,522	1878	1,127,583		36,848,197
Great Lakes	22,876	1874					
and around the		1875	639,097	1879	1,120,745		
Great Lakes	68,832	1876					

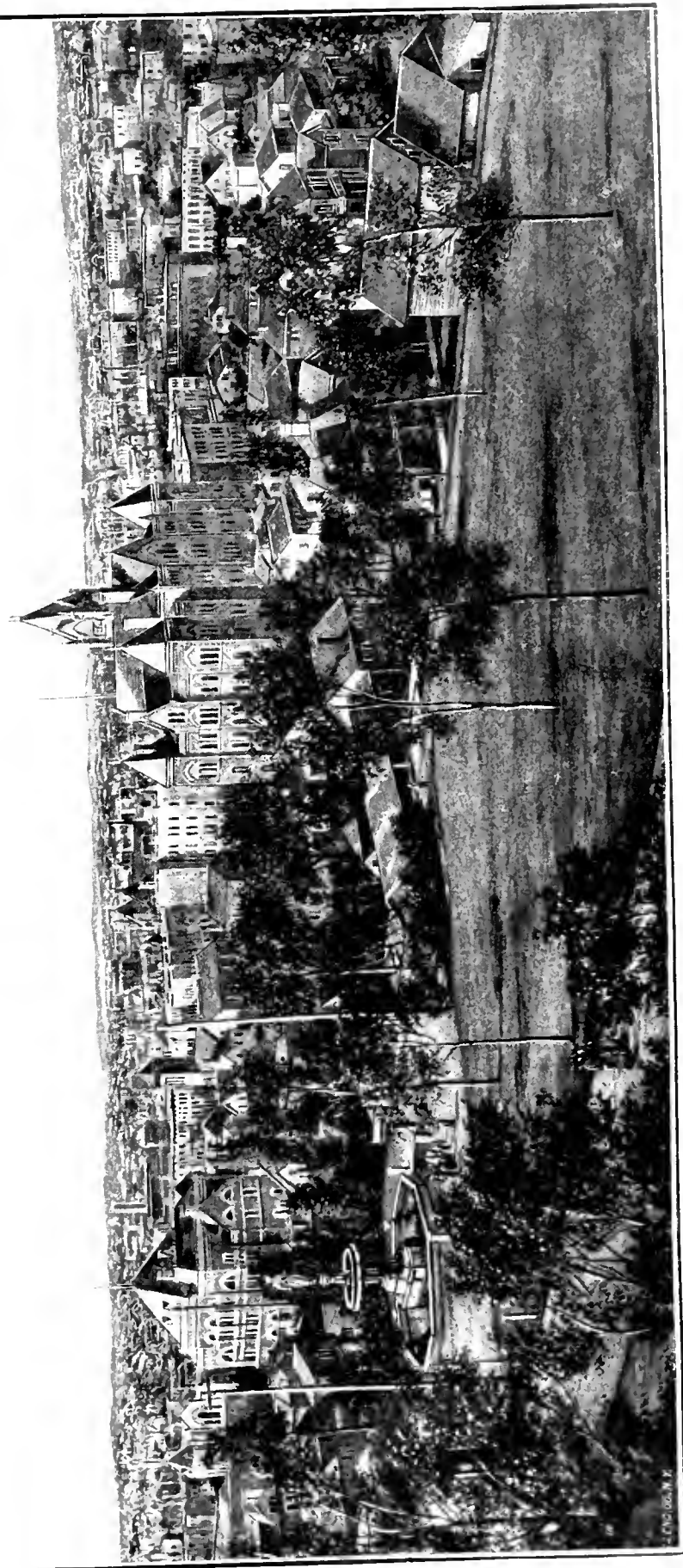
The report of State Salt Inspector for the month of February, 1888, shows the following quantities inspected in the counties named:

COUNTY.	TABLETS.
Saginaw	72,892
Bay	18,787
Manistee	10,846
Madland	3,070
Macou	1,341
St. Clair	1,053
Huron	497
Total	108,456

These figures show a marked falling off in point of manufacture from the corresponding month in previous years, but this results from obedience to the request of the Salt Association to limit the output during the winter, with a view to reducing the large surplus on hand. The price of salt has fluctuated so widely during the past quarter of a century that it would be very difficult to estimate, with any approximation to accuracy, the total value of the product. The following table shows the number of barrels produced from 1860 to 1887, inclusive:

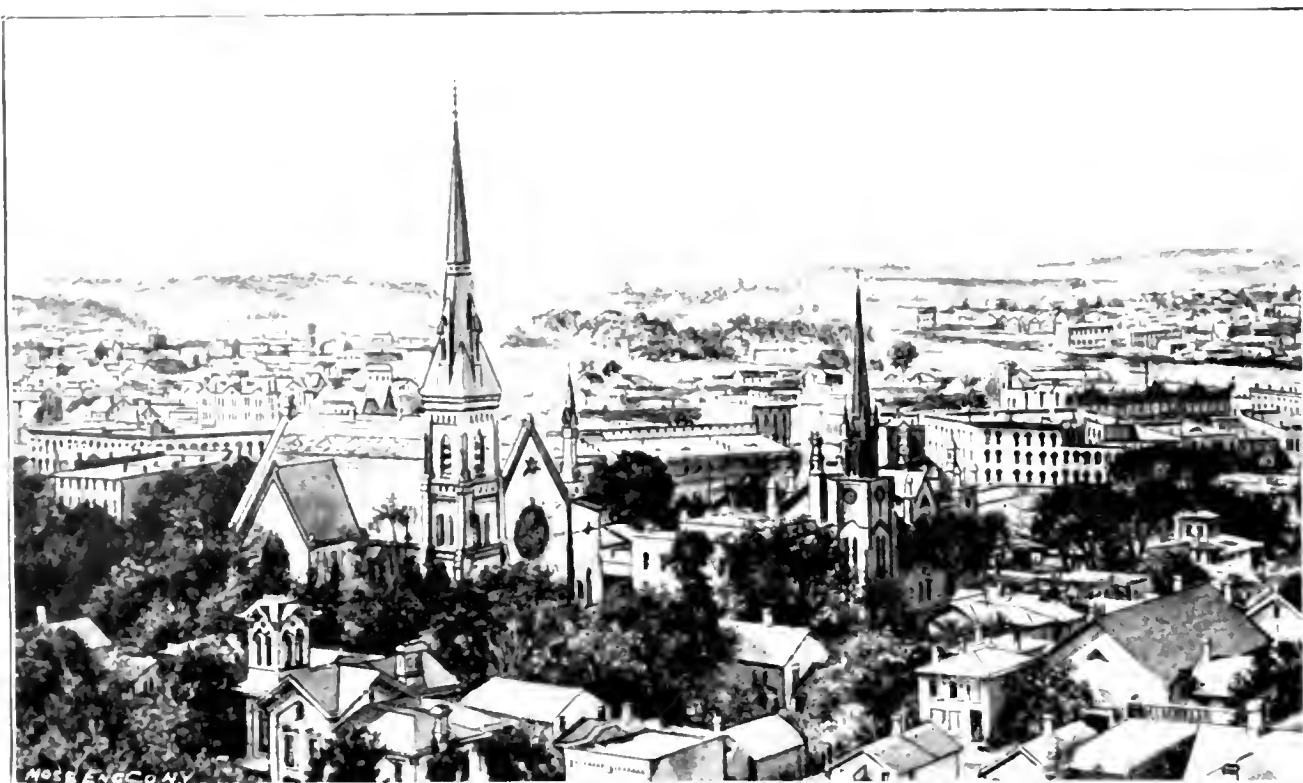
YEAR.	BARRELS	YEAR.	BARRELS	YEAR.	BARRELS	YEAR.	BARRELS
1860	4,006	1867	474,721	1874	1,411,959	1881	2,750,244
1861	125,000	1868	555,000	1875	1,081,805	1882	3,087,217
1862	243,000	1869	561,288	1876	1,462,720	1883	2,891,672
1863	496,356	1870	621,352	1877	1,669,026	1884	3,161,806
1864	520,073	1871	928,175	1878	1,855,884	1885	3,300,000
1865	477,290	1872	724,481	1879	2,058,040	1886	3,500,000
1866	497,077	1873	823,346	1880	2,676,588	1887	4,200,000

Michigan was the first State to engage in the salt manufacture, and her annual output is more than double that of any other State in the Union.

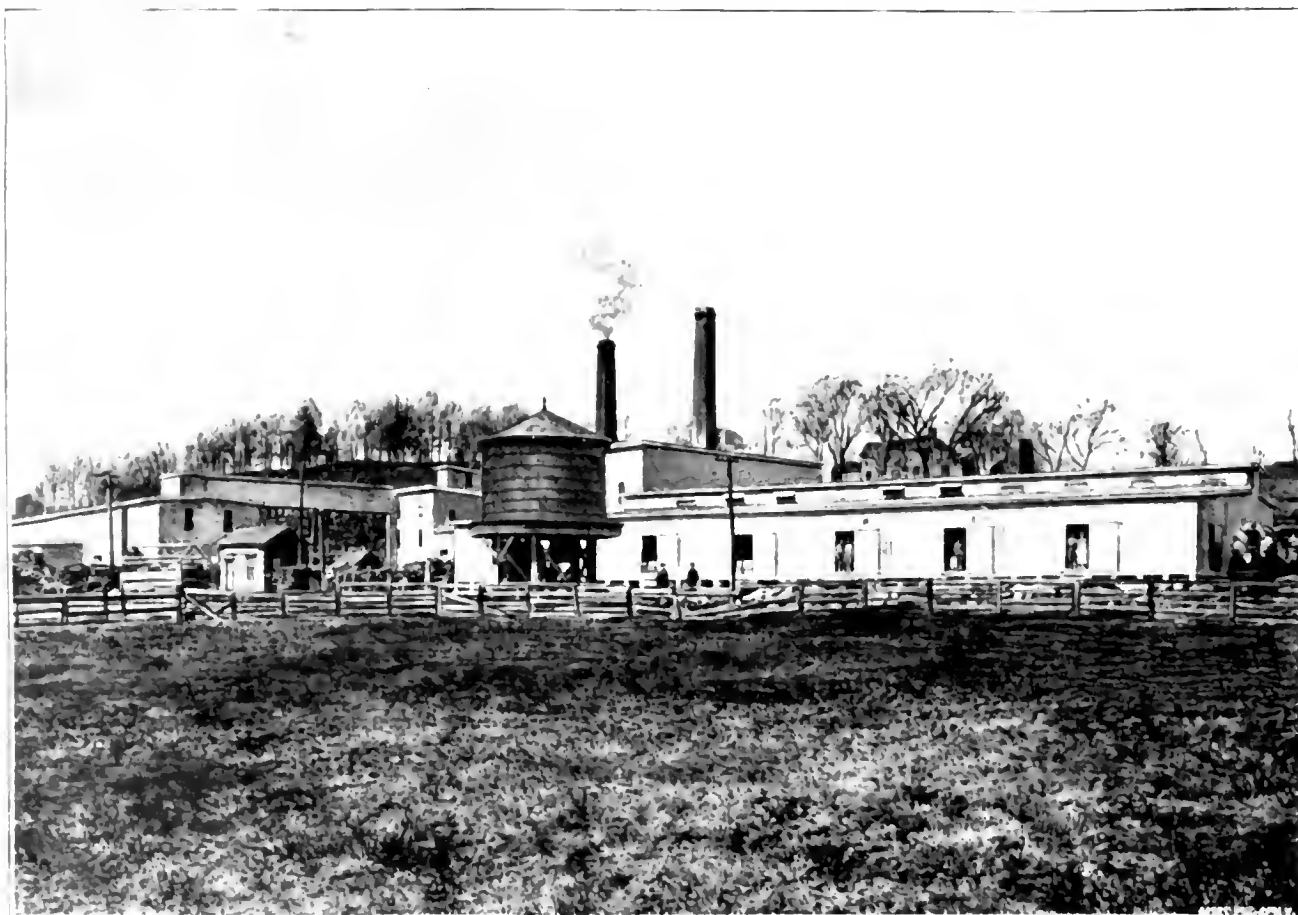


A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW TAKEN FROM THE BUELS NEAR CRESCENT PARK

— CHAS. DODGE, JR. '87



VIEW OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK



VIEW OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK



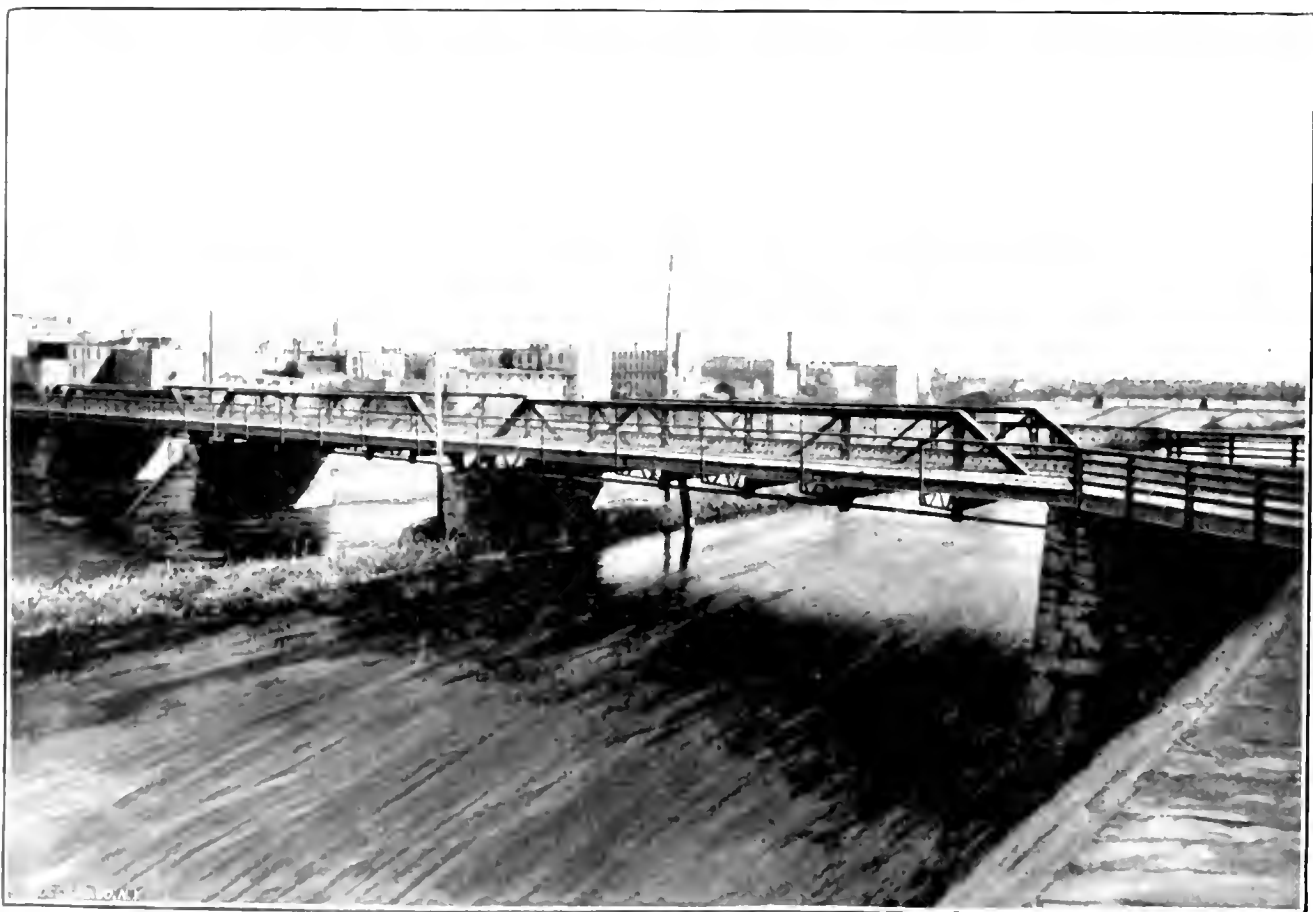
1. Logs piled up against D. G. H. & M. R. R. Bridge, Grand Rapids Chair Co. Factory in the distance.
2. Log Drivers at work trying to prevent the destruction of the Railroad Bridge.
3. The Log Jam destroying the G. R. & I. and T. S. & M. S. Railroad Bridges.



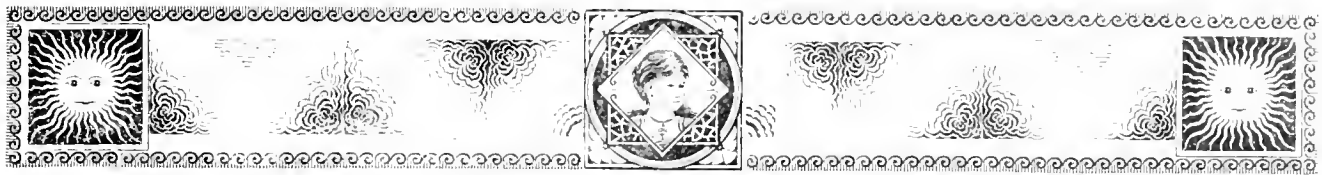
THE LOG JAM IN GRAND RIVER AT GRAND RAPIDS, JULY 26, 1887.



ELLS FARM - SEAGULLS - WOOD AND RAILRO



ELLS FARM - SEAGULLS - WOOD AND RAILRO



The City of Grand Rapids.

Its Location, Early History, Surroundings and the Attractive Features it Presents to those Seeking to Settle in an Enterprising City.

ONCE upon a time a solitary horseman might have been"—the old formula for beginning a story, required that a location, a place for a start, should be provided. In telling the story of Grand Rapids it is hardly necessary, in the business circles of larger cities of the world, to give its story a location—the fame of the town has gone abroad in all the land. But, lest there may be some who may see this who have not yet a clear idea of its location, it may be well to say that it is in the western portion of the Lower Peninsula of the State of

Michigan. It is the second city in population, wealth and business importance, and the first in energy and ambition in the State. It is the shire town of Kent county, which is in the fourth tier of Michigan counties from the south and in the second row east of Lake Michigan. It lies on both sides of the Grand River, at the head of navigation of that stream.

At this point there is quite a fall in the river, its rapids, whence the name of the city, and to this fact is due one of the important early advantages of the city—a fine water power, the best in the State save that at Sault Ste. Marie. The city is, by rail, thirty two miles from Grand Haven, the lake port at the mouth of Grand River; 147 from Detroit, 183 from Chicago, 304 from Cincinnati, and 226 from the Straits of Mackinac. As appears from the railroad map on the cover of this publication, it is at the center of the known earth—a point where the sky, equally distant in every direction, shuts down over the landscape like the half of an orange peel.

THE CITY PROPER.

The city proper is three and a half miles long and three miles wide; but its suburbs on every side are directly connected by street cars with the business center, and the city really is much larger in size and population than the municipality controlled by the City Charter. It is in the midst of as fine a section of country "as the sun e'er shone upon"—a region especially favorable to the husbandman or the horticulturist, where agriculture, stock raising, dairying and fruit growing are followed with most encouraging results and satisfactory profits. The soil, a sandy, gravelly loam—some of it heavy timbered land, of beech, maple, oak and elm, other of it oak openings, still other pine lands with a plentiful sprinkling of interspersed hardwood timber—furnishes all needful varieties for all manner of vegetables, grains and roots, for excellent pastures and meadows, for thrifty, productive orchards—in short a soil where an honest day's work wins a sure reward in an honest day's returns.

THE FRUIT BELT.

In this same connection, or at this point, it may properly be mentioned that Grand Rapids is at the center of what is popularly and very properly known as the "Fruit Belt" of Michigan, and its actual commercial center.

"Michigan Fruit" has long had a most enviable reputation—"no better grows." Since the great Centennial Exposition, at which Michigan won first honors in pomology, this fact has been recognized throughout the whole land; and the Fruit Belt's products were what secured this fully deserved reputation. The annual fairs at Grand Rapids each fall afford exhibits of fruit that cannot be equaled elsewhere in the United States. These displays include, in home-grown fruits, the very finest apples, peaches, pears, plums, grapes, quinces, crabapples, and a great variety of berries, as blackberries, strawberries, raspberries, black, red and white, blue or whortleberries, and apricots; melons of various kinds are also grown in great quantities. These fruits are all of good size, but, more especially, of very superior flavor and firmness, and have admirable keeping qualities.

The area that may be devoted to this culture comprises many hundreds of thousands of acres; though already large, this interest may be expanded almost indefinitely, dependent only on profitableness of the business, the demand of the market, both for present use and either for canning or other methods of preservation.

THE TIMBER INTERESTS.

The mention of the character of the soil caused some reference to the timber of the adjacent country. It is apropos at this point to speak of this signal advantage of Western Michigan, of which Grand Rapids is the admitted metropolis. It is known of all men that for many years this State has been the chief producer of pine lumber in the Union; no other Commonwealth has placed nearly so much, nor so good pine lumber on the markets of the entire country for many years past.

The gross product for the year 1887 was well toward five thousand million feet, valued at \$65,000,000, and this annual total will not be very largely decreased for the next decade to come. Grand Rapids lies at the southern base of the great pine region—Grand River has floated out many hundreds of millions feet of the choicest timber, which was sawed at this point, or at the mouth of the river; while on the lines of the railroads leading into the country north of the city, clear to the Straits of Mackinac, local mills have cut even a larger total.

HARDWOOD TIMBER.

But great as this wealth of pine has been, and yet is, one of the most intelligent of the veteran managers of business in Michigan, a gentleman who has been identified with its lumber interests from its infancy, and who has become a millionaire thereby, stated at the recent State Forestry Convention in Grand Rapids that the hardwood wealth of the State, undeveloped, is greater than the pine wealth of the same. This hardwood, consisting chiefly of beech, maple and elm, is not only of the finest variety, but also of the choicest, better than that of any other State, and, more, in the different varieties, is adapted to many uses.

the city, and the fact that it is a city of the future, not of the past, is admirably shown by the fact of its great wealth. Its railroad system, its manufacturing system, its water power, as here described, give it a position in the Northwest that is almost unassailable. Its factories, already using an enormous amount of capital, are the quantity required almost anywhere, with the exception of the supply of being compelled to go to the West for it.

THE CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS.

In this busy, energetic, busy world cares very little for the past, and the future, for the present, or for posterity, is what chiefly concerns the people. They are living their important interests in life, whether they are living in the past, the present, or the future. Yet there's a good deal in blood, in the past, in the future, in the present, as well as in the future. A city of the future, the city of Grand Rapids, so admirably located in such a beautiful region, is a city of the future, its agricultural and timber wealth, its manufacturing system, its water power, as here described, give it a position in the Northwest that is almost unassailable. What it has achieved, what it is doing, give a sure guaranty of what it will be and do.

The Chippewas of Michigan held the site of the city in very high regard. It was one of their most important villages, where they had a corn field and a cemetery. Hence it was very natural that the energetic early French traders—those first pioneers of civilization in so many portions of our Northwest territory—came here to the heart of the Indian country to ply their business. The year 1827 found them at the rapids of the river, ready to barter for peltry, and almost immediately missionaries followed. So what is now the city was thus a trading post and missionary post several years before what was intended for a permanent settlement of whites was effected. That auspicious event occurred in June, 1833, some four years before the State became one of the states of the Union. These early settlers from new States had stout hearts and strong hands, coupled with rare good sense and intelligence and unbounded energy and ambition. While it is in a modified sense that cities grow naturally, where conditions are favorable, yet it is undeniably true that the character of the founders, of the early promoters of a community, has much, very much, to do with the growth and success of any city. If they be lively, energetic, sagacious, enterprising men, who make the most of their natural advantages, who push their business, rather than depend on good fortune and those advantages, their town will certainly pass many others with equal natural opportunities in the race for position, for manufacturing or commercial supremacy. Such were the "Yankees" of fifty-five years ago who founded this city. The bias then given the community has grown with passing years. Its heredity dominates it, and this tendency, this sentiment of energy, enterprise and thrift has become an essential part of the inmost feeling of the people.

EARLY ENTERPRISES.

These early comers—industrious, frugal—were quick to seize and make the most of their advantages. They had the spirit of manufacture and of commerce. A sawmill was in actual operation here in 1833, and another within a year was quickly followed by several others, and by other mills, furniture and chair factories, flouring mills, boating for salt and other industrial enterprises. And trading had been profitable here for several years before the Indians ceded the whole of what is now Grand Rapids to the United States.

In 1836 the first steamboat was built for navigation on Grand River, to supersede the canoes and pole boats that had afforded the only means of communication with the balance of mankind, save long, tedious, overland journeys. This boat made its first trip down the river July 4, 1837. This same year another steamboat was built to navigate the upper river, between this city and Loma, and as early as 1840 the energetic pioneers had begun upon the scheme of improving the navigation of the river; they proposed an important work, including a canal around the rapids of the river, and a portion of the present East Side water power is one of the legacies of that enterprise. As early as 1837 the settlers had established a bank and several stores, as well as hotels and other necessary requisites for a thriving frontier city in embryo.

THE POPULATION.

Their town and the settlements in the surrounding country grew apace. The precise population of the city in 1840 cannot be stated. Kent County, according to the United States census, already contained 2,587 whites, a surprising growth in seven years; the population in 1837 was estimated at 1,200. In 1845 the city contained 1,510 of the county's total of 6,040 population. During the following five years the population of the county nearly doubled—it was 12,016, and the city had 2,080 of these. These figures for the city grew steadily and rapidly, as may be seen from the following statistics: In 1854 it was 4,278; 1860, 8,090; 1864, during the war the city, which sent a very large number of brave soldiers to the front, merely held its own—8,772; 1870, 10,507; 1874, 25,033; 1880, 32,010; 1884, 42,732. At this writing the city population unquestionably exceeds 70,000, for the ratio of growth since the State census of 1884 has been greater than in any preceding four years since 1870-74.

The foregoing figures tell their own tale; they reflect, in tangible form, the practical manifestations of the city's heredity—the spirit of its founders. There has been a steady and remarkably uniform growth, a growth that proves how well ordered and prosperous have been the business enterprises of the city; how firmly they are founded; how broad and general are their ramifications, so that panics, periods of depression, local causes, do not affect them unfavorably to any appreciable extent. It will be seen that even through the rebellion decade, and the decade of the great panic of 1873 and subsequent years, the population doubled each decade. The present decade has not witnessed, as yet, anything approaching the depression of those periods, and thus far the growth, as has been said, has been even greater.

The facts as to population should be mentioned in another aspect. It is very largely composed of native born people. The United States census of both 1870 and 1880 showed that less than one third of the city's total population was foreign born. While it is unquestionably true that it has attracted a fair share of the best immigration of the past eight years, as in former years, it is certain that the proportion of native born people resident here has increased. The general character of the people is well portrayed in the facts and statistics given in these pages, of their factories, their stores, their banks, their houses, their places of amusement, their educational, benevolent and religious institutions. These are all indices of the history of the city for the past half century. Few other cities can show as rapid, as steady, as solid a progress during that half century. None has a better population, a more honorable career, or brighter prospects, as indicated by its past.

MANUFACTURES

The Greatest Factor in Building up and Making Renowned the City



REVIEW of the history of cities shows that those which contain the greatest diversified business interests grow the most rapidly. The lives of New York and Charleston, S. C., began almost simultaneously. Both had fine harbors and great natural advantages for trade and commerce when the sturdy Dutchman, the Celt and Anglo-Saxon, settled on their beautiful bays. But when she had established banks, mercantile houses and exchanges for produce and commodities of various kinds; when her shipping interests were in a fair state of development; when her shippers in wooden walls ploughed the seas in search of goods for the home markets, New York gave her attention to manufactures and encouraged the founding of mills and factories for the production of articles of utility and convenience from the native materials which were found in abundance at her very doors. The city grew with wonderful rapidity under the inspiration of her business men, who not only extended their enterprise to every section of the globe, but fostered and developed her manufactures, which were to contribute so largely to the greatness of the city as a commercial center in the future.

The people of Charleston confined their business enterprises to shipping and mercantile pursuits, paying no attention to manufactures, and in consequence they have never made a showing in the extent of business carried on in any year, either antedating or since the war of the rebellion, which would make a respectable comparison with New York.

New Orleans was an old and prosperous city long before the ground on which Chicago stands was purchased by the government. The former has no manufacturing enterprises worth mentioning and depends almost wholly on its trade in cotton and sugar for the support of its business houses. Chicago, filled with factories, is growing so rapidly as to prove a perpetual surprise to people who give attention to the growth of cities. Other comparisons might be given in this connection to substantiate the claim set up in the foregoing, that the cities which grow to greatness in the business world soonest are those which afford the people the widest variety of occupations for their employment; but enough is shown the reader, who reflects for a moment on the condition of the manufacturing centers to-day, to convince him the point to which attention is directed is well sustained.

A FACTORY CITY.

The city of Grand Rapids is known far and wide for the number and character of its manufacturing establishments. Its three hundred and eighty-two factories produce goods which are sold in nearly every market of the world.

FURNITURE MAKING.

Its furniture factories are unequalled in size by those of any other manufacturing center of the world, and the goods produced in them are the best in style and quality that can be found in the marts of trade. So well is this fact understood that Grand Rapids furniture commands higher prices than similar goods made at other points, while the government of the United States, acknowledging the superiority of the workman by the artisans of Michigan's chief manufacturing city, has entered into a contract with one of the leading corporations for providing all furniture that is required in the government buildings at all points east of the Rocky Mountains. The most

skillful designers, men whose services command wages larger than the salaries paid to members of Congress, are employed, and the business of making furniture is pushed with skill, vigor and the most satisfactory results. Designs are changed frequently and the fields of mechanism, science and art are searched continuously for points and suggestions which may be utilized in the manufacture of goods.

EXCITEMENTS FOR QUICK WORK.

No other city produces so many articles for furnishing the homes and business places of the people of America, and if it were necessary to make a sufficient number of bedsteads for the use of all the people of the world, no city could fill the order so quickly as Grand Rapids. The amount of capital employed by the furniture manufacturers is \$3,728,000, and the value of the product during the year 1887 was \$5,942,000. Four thousand five hundred and forty-nine men, one hundred and thirteen women and seventy-eight traveling salesmen, who solicit trade in Canada and South America as well as in the United States, were employed.

The business is almost entirely in the hands of Americans, whose activity, enterprise and liberality affords a marked contrast to the slow, easy going, though not less worthy Germans and Swedes who control the furniture manufacturing business at all other places where it is carried on to any considerable extent. The people of Michigan are indebted for the prominence and distinction which Grand Rapids enjoys as a furniture manufacturing center to these men.

THE WORKMEN.

The hands employed in the factories are mostly peaceable, industrious, thrifty, pious, home-loving Hollanders, opposed to strikes and with no capacity for mischief making. Every attempt to organize them for the purpose of antagonizing the interests of their employers has failed.

GROWTH.

The rapid growth of this industry is readily shown by a comparison of the foregoing figures with the following, the local trade taking all goods manufactured previous to the year 1864: The value of the output for the year 1865 was \$124,008; number of men employed, 175; amount of lumber used, 40,000 feet. Goods of the value of \$1,150,000 were produced during the year 1877 by seven factories, with an aggregate working capital of \$1,000,000, and employing 720 men. The furniture factories now use over 50,000,000 feet of domestic lumber (a large share of which is sawed in Michigan) connected with the factories annually, and also a very considerable quantity of mahogany and other imported cabinet woods.

HARDWOOD TIMBER.

Among the many advantages which the manufacturers of Grand Rapids possess is an almost inexhaustible supply of hardwood timber, the amount of which now available to their use is something no man can tell. Surely, as it may appear there has been a custom for many of the lumberjacks of the railroad companies, firms and individuals to take a large amount of the opening of the Michigan timberland, the growth since the opening has by low calculation, 200,000,000,000 feet of pine, which is now growing more than two thirds greater than this amount. There are thirty counties in the State which are directly tributary to Grand Rapids in this supply of lumber.

wood to be cut in the Lower Peninsula, State of Michigan, and extending north to the State of Minnesota. It covers sixteen towns to the south, and extends to sections of 40 acres each, making a grand total of 12,800,000 square feet of lumber. Of this, over 8,000,000 are of the best quality of lumber for the manufacture of furniture, agricultural implements, and many other articles of domestic use. Of the 8,000,000 square feet covered with valuable timber, such as chestnut, white oak, maple, pine and basswood, one can make an approximate estimate of the quantity of lumber that will be produced before the supply is exhausted, which is for 14,000,000,000 feet, and experienced lumbermen declare that the quantity is suitable for manufacture in the articles mentioned in the foregoing. These figures are simply wonderful. Then, if one stops to think that if the hardwood timber on the lands owned by the Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad alone (350,000 acres) and doubling the amount for each alternate section not owned by that corporation (will 700,000 acres) were cut into four foot wood, taking fifty cords from each acre, it would make a pile four feet high and 54,000 miles in length. To move this wood by rail would require 29,085,715 cars, or 1,372,000,287 feet of the city two cars each, and would, if placed in a continuous line, reach the enormous distance of 75,118 miles. All this lumber lies at the very doors of Grand Rapids, and one cannot estimate its value in dollars and cents; but it would seemingly require all the wealth of the whole country to move it at once or within thirty days. A prominent manufacturer recently declared that there is sufficient hardwood lumber in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan to meet all demands for fifty years, and when that is gone as much more will be available in the Upper Peninsula of the State. The manufacturers of Grand Rapids will never be without an ample supply of this material.

FACILITIES FOR SHIPPING.

The geographical situation of Grand Rapids is so central that its manufacturers can ship to extreme points east, west, north and south with the greatest facility and at a minimum expense for freights. This statement is attested by the fact that thousands of buyers of manufactured goods from points on the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Northwest and the Gulf visit Grand Rapids annually to make purchases of stocks.

LUMBER MANUFACTURERS.

The thirty-seven firms and corporations engaged in the manufacture of lumber do not employ their combined capital of \$3,801,000 entirely in Grand Rapids, but operate quite extensively at various points in Northern Michigan. The lumber produced at their mills in the city, however, sold for \$4,580,000, as will be seen in the tabulated statement following.

IMMEDIATE FACTORIES.

Among the largest factories, not specified above is one which produced carpet sweepers valued at \$300,000, and the largest of its kind in the world; another, pianos worth \$125,000, while twelve factories turned out barrels and kegs to the value of \$510,000.

METAL WORKING FACTORIES.

Forty-four factories which manufacture articles of the various metals employ an aggregate capital of \$671,000, and 717 workmen. The value of their products for 1887 were \$1,203,750. The largest of these industries—seven in number—employ 503 hands and turned out wood and iron working machines, engines and boilers valued at \$700,000 last year.

Grand Rapids presents a fine field for metal workers, and the Board of Trade desires to give its aid and encouragement to the founding of new establishments of like character. The field for business is an extensive one, and the advantages which the city possesses for manufacturing articles of metal at minimum cost will be easily more apparent to the investigator.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURES.

The number of firms, partnerships and corporations which carry on manufacturing of a miscellaneous character is 171. Their capital combined is \$1,280,800, and the value of the goods produced during the

year 1887 was \$8,921,050. They give employment to 2,455 persons, 447 of whom were females. Six grist mills produced flour and feed valued at \$1,360,600. They grind twenty car loads of grain per day. Hides were tanned and leather manufactured to the amount of \$1,030,000. Two boot and shoe factories employed 109 men and 90 women during the year 1887, and the value of the footwear manufactured was \$685,000. Other large interests are the plaster mills, the belting factories, the brick and tile yards, the manufacture of clothing, crackers, baking powders, spices and confections.

Five plaster mills are located at or near the city, owned and operated by incorporated companies, which have an aggregation of capital to the amount of \$750,000. The stucco and land plaster produced by these mills during 1887 sold for \$200,000.

The works of the Grand Rapids Barrel Company, in which a great variety of woodwork is produced, is the largest establishment of its kind in the world.

A machine shop devoted to the manufacture of shingle sawing machines is the largest factory of its class in the United States, and the same is true of an enormous establishment which is used in the production of tubs and pails.

Four factories manufactured wall finishing compounds during 1887 valued at \$250,000. The amount of capital employed in the business was \$200,000, while the labor attending the manufacture and sale of the goods was performed by fifty-one men, twenty-seven women and fourteen traveling salesmen.

ADDITIONAL FACTORIES NEEDED.

A careful investigation made by the Committee on Statistics of the Board of Trade revealed the fact that many new factories, if started in Grand Rapids, could do a profitable business. They found, among other things, that malleable iron castings to the amount of 2,033,491 pounds were used during the year 1887, all of which were obtained from abroad. This fact fully justifies their claim that a foundry for producing malleable iron castings is greatly needed in Grand Rapids.

Three thousand four hundred and sixty-five barrels of varnishes, valued at \$60 per barrel, and thousands of barrels of wood stains and fillers were used by the manufacturers of pianos, furniture, carriages, refrigerators and other wares of wood during the year, every gallon of which was made outside of the city. Over \$200,000 was paid for varnishes alone. This fact amply supports the claim of the committee that a varnish factory could be established with an assurance of success in the city.

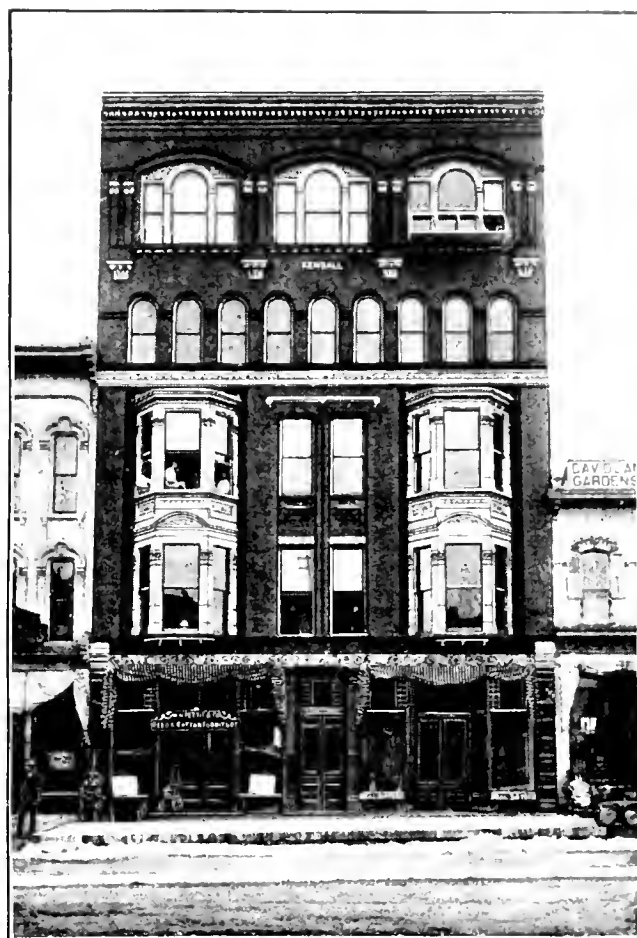
The wood working shops also consumed 2,653 barrels of glue, only a small part of which was made in Grand Rapids. The committee is of the opinion that another factory for the production of glue could be profitably located in this field.

OPENINGS FOR MEN OF BRAINS.

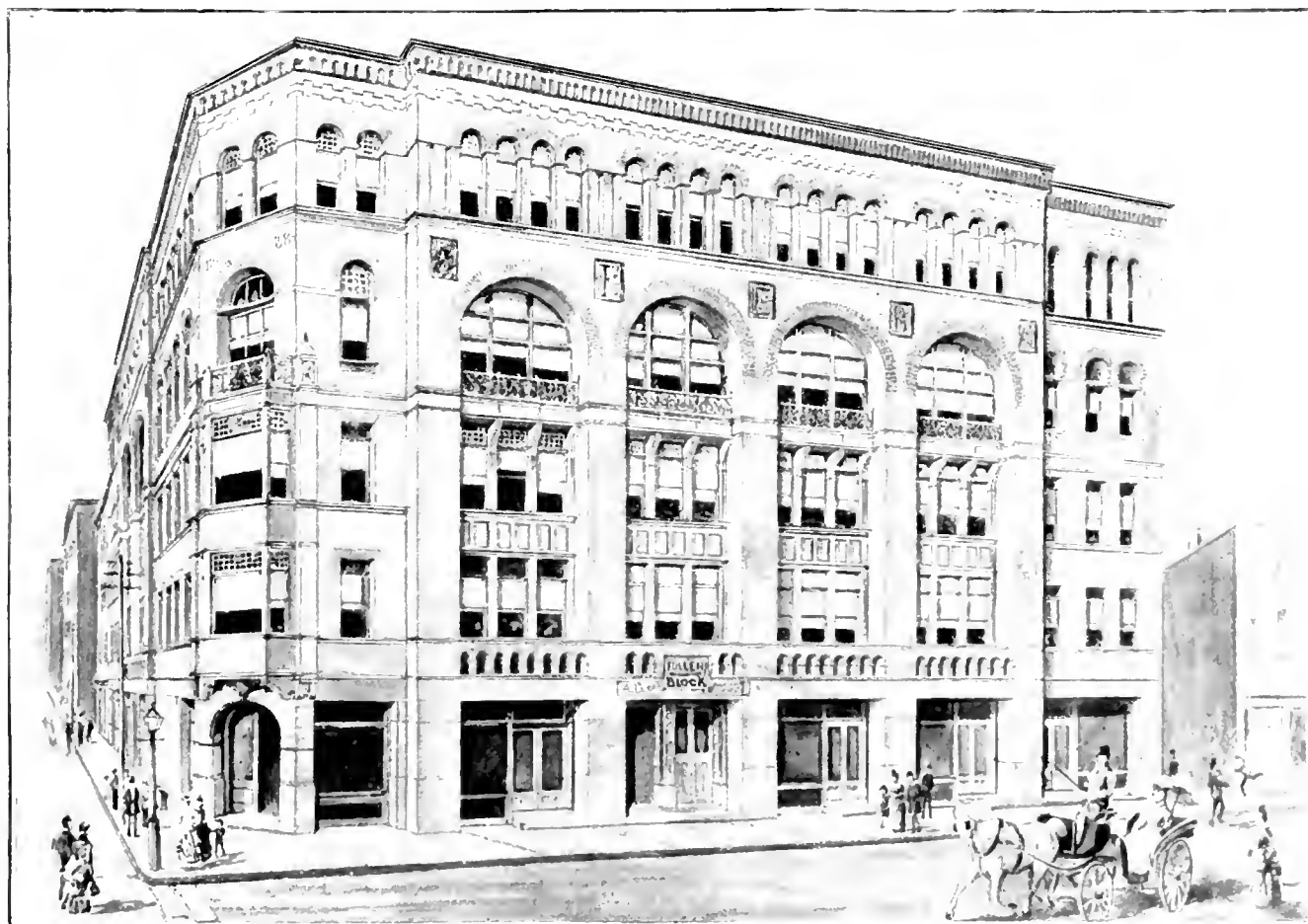
There are openings in Grand Rapids for men with brains, energy and capital to engage, profitably, in the manufacture of the articles mentioned as follows: Varnishes, stains and fillers, casket and cabinet hardware, harness and upper leather, brass castings, railroad iron, book, print, letter and wrapping papers, polished marble, beveled and silvered mirrors, stoves, ranges and furnaces, railroad and street cars, wire and iron fencing, malleable iron castings, builders' hardware, cane and wood seat chairs, children's cribs, what nots, parlor furniture frames, woolen cloths and yarns, paints, oils and dyes, glue and fertilizers, handles for brooms and agricultural tools, organs and sewing machines, road carts, hacks, additional tanneries (as hemlock bark is cheap and abundant in quantity), watches and jewelry, radiators and plumbers' fixtures, office safes, lead pipe and sheet lead, optical goods, smoking and fine cut tobaccos, lithographs, knit goods and hosiery, fluid extracts, and specific medical preparations, furniture tops from marble and gypsum, photographers' materials, wire goods of all kinds, a factory for distilling dry saw dust for wood tar and crude acid—the latter producing wood alcohol, turpentine, creosote oil; one ton of sawdust will produce \$12 worth of merchantable product.



WESTON BLOCK CANAL STREET



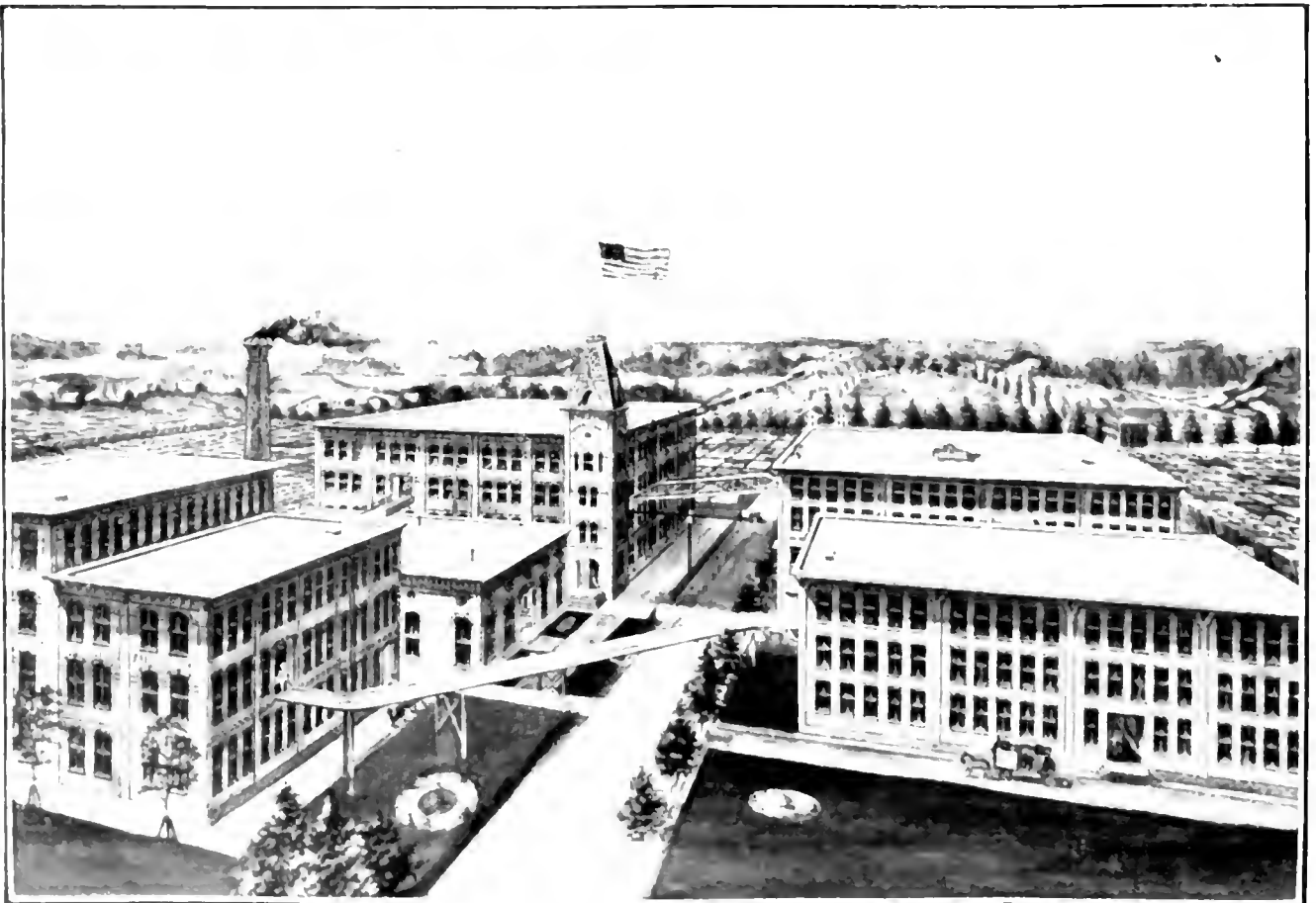
KENDALL BLOCK MONROE STREET



T. L. L. BLOCK CANAL AND BRIDGE STREETS



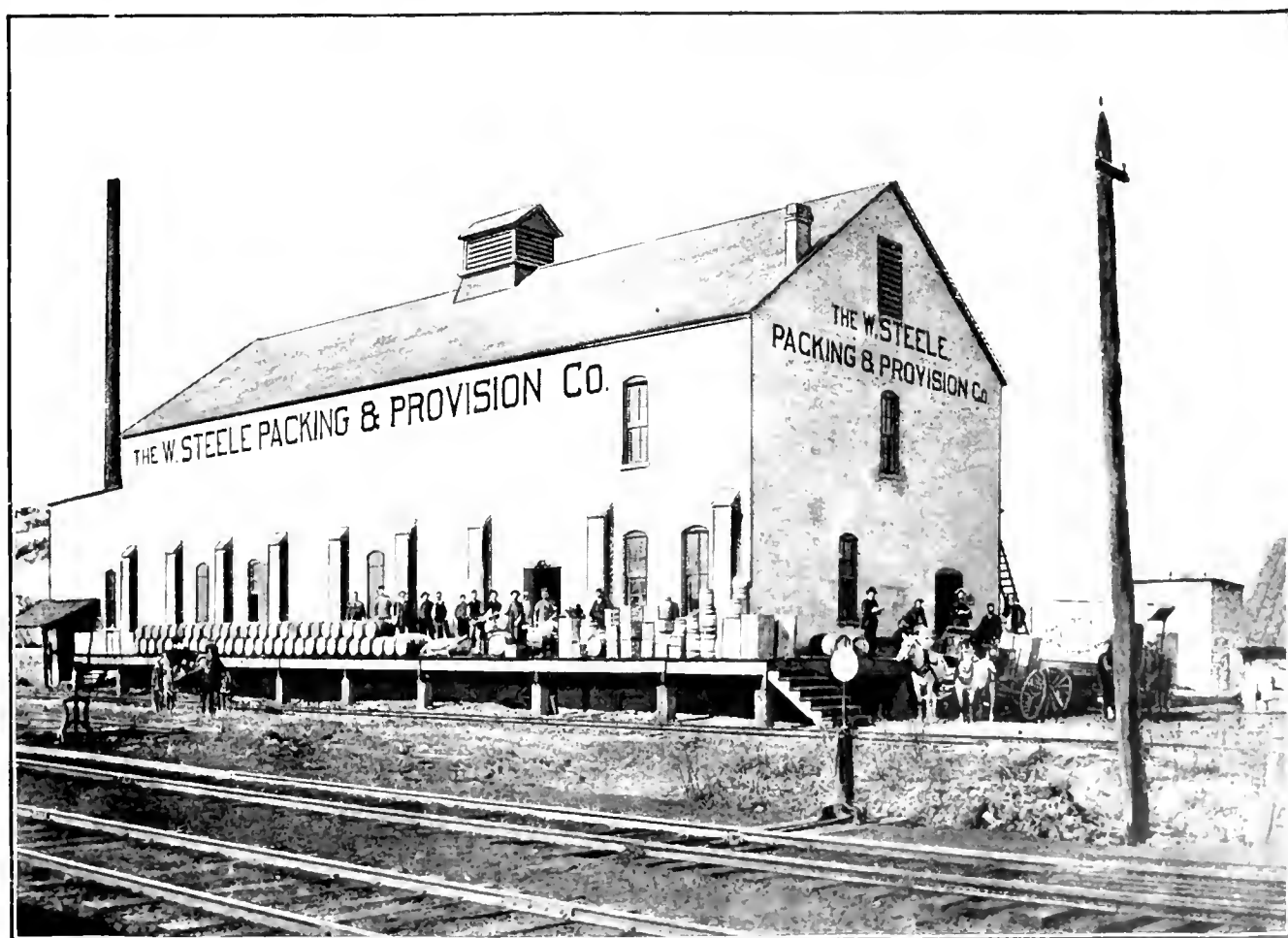
PHOENIX FURNITURE CO.



PHOENIX FURNITURE CO.



FOURTH NATIONAL BANK CANAL AND LYON STREETS.



THE WM. STEELE PACKING AND PROVISION CO. WORKS AND WHARF.



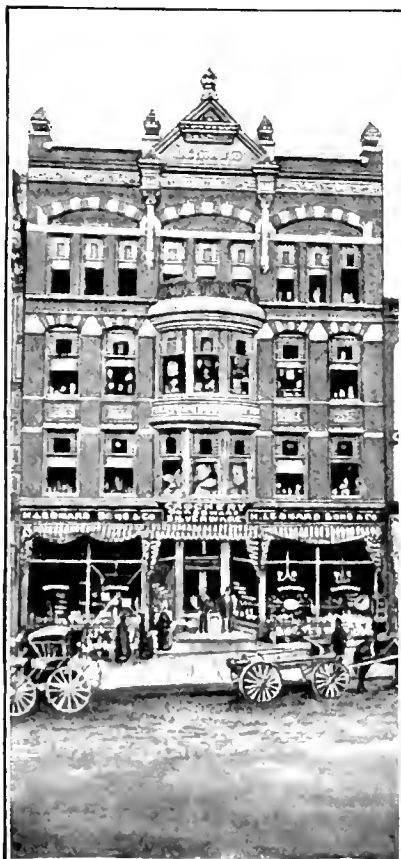
BERKEY & GAY FURNITURE CO



WILSON MATTIE & CO FURNITURE WARE ROOMS



HAWKINS BLOCK



LEONARD BUILDINGS. 1 MONROE STREET. 2 TILTON AND SPRING STS.



CARNIVAL BLOCK, SOUTH TONIA AND LOUIS STREETS



CLAY BLOCK, SOUTH TONIA STREET



HOUSEMAN BUILDING LYON AND OTTAWA STREETS.



THE LIVINGSTON IN LYON AND SOUTH DIVISION STREETS



EDWARD JACK, OTTAWA AND LEAVE ST. LUIS



W. & A. CO. N.Y. AND WATERLOO ST. LUIS

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF PRESENT FACTORIES.

NUMBER OF FABRICES.		1904.				1905.			
		CAPITAL EMPLOYED.	PRODUCT IN VALUE.	EMPLOY- MENT.		CAPITAL EMPLOYED.	PRODUCT IN VALUE.	EMPLOY- MENT.	
1	Animal Traps.....	\$ 2,000	\$ 5,000	3	1	Old	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	10
1	Asbestine Stone.....	3,000	20,000	12	1	Old	250,000	130,000	20
1	Asphaltum Stone.....	5,000	25,000	15	5	Green and Marble	40,000	110,000	15
1	Agricultural Implements.....	50,000	200,000	29	1	Old	1,000	2,500	6
1	Awnings and Tents.....	1,000	11,000	5	1	Hand Screw	2,000	8,000	8
2	Baking Powder, Spoons, etc.....	23,500	113,000	22	8	Hornes	25,000	78,000	29
3	Blank Books.....	20,000	17,000	52	1	Hall	1,000	5,000	4
2	Burial Caskets.....	78,000	125,000	66	1	Hoop Stair	2,000	10,000	11
1	Brush.....	100,000	100,000	115	1	Ind	1,000	2,500	4
3	Bent Wood.....	35,000	60,000	34	1	Knitting	15,000	25,000	39
2	Boat.....	3,500	14,000	9	1	Ladder	600	2,000	2
5	Brick and Tile.....	155,000	850,000	167	37	Lumber and Planing	3,861,000	1,586,000	681
7	Breweries.....	100,000	600,000	130	1	Moulding Paraffin	25,000	50,000	23
6	Bottling Soda, Pop, Beer, etc.....	10,000	118,000	32	2	Matresses.....	17,000	75,000	36
4	Broom.....	8,300	33,050	34	2	Paddle.....	7,500	21,000	19
2	Belting.....	65,000	230,000	11	3	Packing Boxes.....	39,000	113,000	60
1	Base Ball Bats.....	20,000	40,000	30	2	Paper Box	7,000	15,000	38
12	Barrel and Keg.....	372,000	510,000	286	1	Plano.....	85,000	125,000	101
2	Brass Foundries.....	8,000	30,000	28	1	Portable Hoist	5,000	20,000	9
1	Bed Slat Fastener.....	1,000	3,500	4	1	Portable Motor Press	15,000	15,000	8
2	Boot and Shoe.....	350,000	685,000	193	5	Patent Medicine.....	16,000	31,000	19
17	Boiler and Machinery.....	181,000	706,000	503	3	Pump.....	6,000	18,000	14
1	Basket.....	2,000	6,000	11	5	Plaster Mills	750,000	200,000	127
3	Coffee Extra.....	2,000	9,000	6	1	Pump.....	25,000	6,500	4
1	Curtain Pole.....	28,000	10,000	11	1	Put Ash.....	2,000	8,000	4
1	Car Shops.....	200,000	125,000	325	1	Rotogravure.....	75,000	100,000	81
2	Cracker.....	115,000	185,000	45	3	Shirt.....	7,000	11,000	36
14	Carriage and Wagon.....	182,500	787,500	425	3	Stamp Stock.....	6,000	26,000	7
4	Cornice metallic.....	21,000	80,000	36	6	Saw, Plan and Blade	115,000	215,000	91
5	Clothing.....	100,000	200,000	138	2	Shaver.....	1,500	17,500	16
1	Clothes Wringer.....	7,000	25,000	15	3	Shoe.....	10,000	2,000	23
1	Cider and Vinegar.....	5,000	25,000	9	3	Shoe.....	35,000	60,000	17
29	Cigar.....	205,000	376,000	136	1	Spoon Box.....	5,000	15,000	6
12	Carpet Weaving.....	5,000	28,000	26	1	Tail and Tail.....	250,000	350,000	263
1	Carpet Sweeper	150,000	300,000	211	2	Tread.....	13,500	19,500	19
9	Confectioneries.....	125,000	132,000	175	1	Truss.....	2,000	5,000	5
1	Door Plates.....	1,000	3,000	3	3	Turners.....	115,000	100,000	316
1	Electrotype.....	10,000	20,000	5	5	Upholstering.....	19,000	161,000	74
2	Edge Tools.....	11,000	16,000	17	1	Veneer.....	30,000	35,000	10
2	Electric Motors.....	50,000	75,000	7	1	Wagon and Carriage	200,000	270,000	78
4	Excelsior.....	57,000	110,000	58	2	Wagon and Carriage	2,000	7,500	9
1	Embalming Fluid.....	20,000	10,000	7	1	Wagon.....	1,500	8,250	5
3	Engravers, etc.....	15,000	37,000	28	3	Willow and Batton Ware	9,500	30,000	34
2	Electric Light.....	250,000	250,000	35	1	Wire Works.....	10,000	8,000	5
2	File.....	1,000	7,000	8	2	Women Shoe	1,500	4,000	5
1	Fishing Rod.....	10,000	15,000	15	1	Wheelbarrow.....	17,000	25,000	79
3	Flavoring Extracts.....	15,000	115,000	23	1	Wood Mantel	2,000	4,500	4
6	Flour Mills.....	565,000	1,300,000	77	4	Wood and Steel.....	11,000	75,000	75
3	Furniture Wood Trimming.....	15,000	110,000	81	15	Woolen Goods.....	2,000	50,000	40
1	Fire Grate.....	60,000	175,000	51	2	Woolen Goods.....	2,000	5,000	5
1	Faucet.....	2,500	6,000	3	1	Woolen Machine.....	000	5,000	6
1	Fly Paper.....	2,000	7,000	6					
1	Furniture Clamp.....	2,500	7,000	4					
28	Furniture	3,723,000	5,911,000	1,662	380	Total	81,216,400	824,948,800	11,119

THE JOBBING TRADE.

A Brief History of its Growth in Grand Rapids—the Market of Western Michigan.



THE history of the jobbing trade of Grand Rapids is a recital of humble beginnings; of gradual growth in diversity, volume and territory; of enterprise which has kept pace with the advance of an undeveloped region; of aggressiveness which has encroached on the boundaries of other markets, compelling a readjustment of old limits; of a breadth and scope which has accorded the market the admiration of the commercial world.

THE PIONEER JOBBERS.

The earliest record of any jobbing transactions in this city dates back to 1847, when the late HON. WILDER D. FOSTER is known to have sold considerable quantities of goods in bulk, to be disposed of in a retail way by the buyers. From that time until 1864, when the jobbing trade of the place may be properly said to have begun, several houses carried on a small jobbing trade in connection with their retail business; but no regular salesmen were sent out by these houses, and no special claims were put forth in their behalf.

To HON. L. H. RANDALL clearly belongs the honor of inaugurating the jobbing trade of this market. When he and SETH HOLCOMB engaged in the grocery business, in 1857, they advertised to do both a wholesale and retail trade; but it was not until 1864 (two years after Mr. RANDALL had purchased the interest of his partner) that the retail business was discontinued, and an exclusively wholesale trade begun. A year later, WM. B. REMINGTON came into the field with a wholesale notion business; and in 1866 the jobbing trade of the town received an accession in the shape of the boot and shoe house of WHITLEY, RINDGE & CO. From this time on, the growth and development of the jobbing trade was rapid, new houses coming into the field every year, while comparatively few retired.

The system of selling goods by sample, while not so common as at present, seemed to be equally essential to the success of a jobbing business a quarter of a century ago.

The difference between selling goods on the road now and in the dawn of the jobbing trade here furnishes a marked contrast. The only railroad which touched Grand Rapids at that time was the old "D. & M.," so that nine tenths of the goods sold from the city were placed along the line of long drives in nearly every direction from the place. In addition to the complement of sample cases, no salesman thought of starting out on a trip of any length without an axe and a rifle—the former to provide against obstructions in the shape of fallen trees and the latter for use in case a wolf or bear attempted to be too familiar. The goods were sold by sample, but instead of being started on their way to the merchant as soon as the order reached the house, they were held until the purchaser sent in his team for them, not infrequently a period of two or three weeks. The farthest point to which Grand Rapids had access was Hersey, then a place of considerable importance as the depot of extensive lumbering operations. Traverse City was known as a town of some size, but was too far away to have any attractions for the Grand Rapids jobbers. Working south of this market the farthest point touched was Singapore, now a deserted, sand-covered village a couple of miles from Saugatuck.

THE JOBBERS OF THE PRESENT.

Such being the beginning, what has been the harvest? A remarkable increase in the branches originally represented and the addition of

other and cognate branches until the jobbing transactions of the market amount to millions where they then amounted to thousands. In no branch of business is this more thoroughly illustrated than in the grocery trade, which is represented by seven strong houses, all vying with each other for supremacy, and whose total sales eclipse those of the wholesale grocery trade of either Toledo or Detroit. That so young a market as Grand Rapids is able to make such a showing is the best possible tribute which can be paid to the sagacity and enterprise of those responsible for it. Nor is this spirit wholly confined to the representatives of the wholesale grocery trade. It is equally noticeable in other lines, contributing, in no small degree, to the wonderful strides the market has made as a jobbing center.

JOBBING HOUSES.

NUMBER.		CAPITAL EMPLOYED.	PRODUCT FOR 1887.	EMPLOYEES.		TRAV. MEN.
				Male	Female	
4	Boots, Shoes and Rubbers	\$200,000	\$325,000	46	.....	10
1	Books and Stationery	100,000	300,000	35	6	8
1	Bronze Monuments.....	.....	9,000	2	.....	1
2	Clothing	75,000	135,000	102	63	3
7	Commission and Produce	118,000	1,000,000	127	39	8
2	Crockery.....	165,000	345,000	36	19	7
4	Dry Goods (wholesale and retail)	585,000	1,400,000	140	150	5
2	Drugs.....	165,000	300,000	20	2	5
7	Grocers	675,000	4,400,000	96	6	41
2	Hardware	300,000	908,000	105	.....	12
1	Hides, Pelts and Wood	50,000	800,000	16	.....	6
2	Hats, Caps and Furs	25,000	60,000	4	5	2
1	Lime and Cement	25,000	150,000	16	.....	..
7	Liquor	150,000	500,000	27	.....	13
1	Notions	35,000	150,000	6	.....	4
2	Packers	73,000	375,000	35	.....	6
4	Paper	112,000	350,000	21	1	13
3	Paints, Oils, etc.,	50,000	150,000	24	.....	6
1	Photographic Supplies	10,000	22,500	2	.....	..
3	Rags and Peddlers Supplies	10,000	50,000	8	11	5
2	Saddlery Hardware, etc.....	100,000	350,000	21	2	6
3	Spices, etc.,	25,000	200,000	13	2	8
2	Yeast	3,000	10,000	5	3	2
70	Total	\$3,051,000	\$12,289,500	878	309	171

Number of barrels illuminating oil inspected at Grand Rapids during 1887 29,060

TERRITORY COVERED.

Coincident with the advent of new houses, and the constant enlargement of those already in the field, has come a gradual increase in the territory covered, partially by encroachments on limits established by other markets, but principally by the development of unsettled sections. Beginning with a territory 100 miles long by half as wide, the jobbing trade of the place

now practically controls the western half of the State, between the Straits of Mackinac and the Indiana line. Much trade is secured in the Upper Peninsula and throughout Northern Indiana, but both fields are as yet disputed ground.

THE NUMBER OF JOBBING HOUSES.

No better index of the remarkable growth of the jobbing trade is offered than the fact that the three original jobbing houses have increased to seventy, and that the half dozen traveling salesmen have been augmented to a band of over 400.

NEW LINES NEEDED.

While the jobbing trade comprises an exceptionally substantial and diversified class of houses, there are still some lines in which the market is deficient, which could be added to the advantage of those already in the field, as well as to the profit of their projectors. In no respect is this more true than in the inauguration of an exclusive dry goods establishment, which is needed more than any other enterprise which can be named. To a less extent the same is true of a clothing house, a hat and cap house, a glove house, another boot and shoe factory, a butter and cheese house, a tobacco factory, a cannery for native fruits and vegetables, a vinegar and pickle factory, an extensive soap factory, a woodenware house, to handle the entire products of the numerous factories in the hardwood districts. The openings in the lines above outlined are such as should command the attention of capitalists or men of experience seeking new fields of operation. The jobbing trade, without an exception, always gives newcomers a hearty welcome and extends the hand of fellowship at every opportunity.

IMPORTS.

The value of goods imported by the merchants and manufacturers of Grand Rapids during the year 1887 was \$4,778,500.

In conclusion, it is hardly necessary to say that the future of Grand Rapids, as a jobbing center, is assured. Sufficient proof of this statement is

found in the fact that Chicago and other cities are beginning to realize that if they expect to do any business in Western Michigan they must come to the headquarters of Western Michigan—which is only another name for Grand Rapids.

RETAIL TRADE.

The extent of the retail trade of the city is indicated by the following enumeration of retail houses:

Agricultural implements, 5; bakeries and confections, 30; bird dealer, 1; books and stationery, 10; boots and shoes, 28; cigars and tobacco, 23; clothing, 12; coal and wood, 9; creameries, 4; crockery, 15; dry goods, 38; druggists, 45; fancy goods and toys, 5; flour and feed, 36; furniture, new, 19; furniture, second hand, 6; general stocks, 3; gents furnishing goods, 2; grocers, 22; hair goods, 7; hardware, 39; harness, 15; hats, 3; house furnishing goods, 9; hygienic goods, 2; laundries (steam), 4; livery stables, 10; mill supplies, 7; millinery and fancy goods, 18; music, 3; news depots, 11; oil stores, 7; oyster and fish stores, 2; plumbing and gas fitting, 7; printing (job and book), 26; restaurants, 13; seed stores, 4; sewing machine agencies, 7; sporting goods, 4; umbrella and cane, 1; wall paper, picture frames, etc., 13; wood yards, 17.

AGENTS, CONTRACTORS, TRADES, PROFESSIONS, ETC.

Architects, 3; building movers, 2; dentists, 29; blacksmiths, 7; brokers, 0; building contractors, 42; barber shops, 51; boot and shoe shops, 50; butchers, 82; carpet cleaning shops, 3; electrical supply houses, 4; florists and nurserymen, 13; undertakers, 5; gold and silver platers, 2; gunsmiths, 2; hack and baggage lines, 2; horse-shoeing shops, 14; insurance agents, 31; intelligence offices, 4; lapidarian, 1; locksmiths, 2; attorneys at law, 91; manieure, 1; manufacturers agents, 3; merchant tailors, 19; millwrights, 3; oculists and aurists, 3; photographers, 15; physicians, 143; real estate dealers, 56; stair builders, 2; steamship agencies, 5; stenographers, 3; taxidermists, 3; veterinary surgeons, 8; renovators (clothes), 7; bath (Turkish), 1; junk dealers, 5; pawn brokers, 4; agents for office safes, 2.



Banks and Banking.

Grand Rapids as a Financial Center—Clearing House Statistics.



GRAND RAPIDS can point with a great deal of pride to her *banking institutions*. They consist of five National and two Savings Banks, all well managed and doing a very prosperous business. Grand Rapids is considered the financial and banking center for Northern and Western Michigan. The rates of discount are very low, comparing favorably with much larger cities and monetary centers.

The enormous increase in the banking business of the city already indicates the steadily increasing wealth of the people. In the spring of 1861, the city had no banking facilities whatever, and it was not until 1863 that there was an organized bank, and that with a capital of but \$50,000.

THE PAST AND PRESENT.

A comparison with the present banking capital and surplus of \$2,854,000; deposits, \$5,750,000, and a line of discounts amounting to \$7,030,000, tells the story of permanent growth and strength, and needs no comment.

SAVINGS BANKS.

The savings banks report that their deposits increased very materially during the winter months of 1887 and 1888, which goes to show that the laboring classes were well employed, and that they are industrious and saving.

THE CLEARING HOUSE.

The Grand Rapids Clearing House Association was organized December 30, 1885.

The reports are very encouraging, and show business is increasing rapidly, the second year of its operation showing an increase of 31 per cent. over the first.

STOCK INSURANCE.

A prosperous stock insurance company, organized in 1882, with a cash capital of \$100,000, increased the same to \$200,000 in 1886, and has had a continuous record of prosperity.

Its assets January 1, 1883, were \$100,359; 1884, \$100,793; 1885, \$115,970; 1886, \$120,257; 1887, \$230,501; 1888, \$275,595.

SAFETY DEPOSIT COMPANIES.

Ample facilities for the storage of papers and valuables are furnished by two safe deposit companies, one conducted by a stock company, with \$50,000, and the other a private enterprise. Each is equipped with all the modern safeguards against burglars and fire.

BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS.

At present, there are in operation in Grand Rapids five building and loan associations, each having a large membership and enjoying prosperity.

The associations, in the order of organization and their capital stock, are as follows:

	CAPITAL.
The Grand Rapids Building and Loan Association	\$ 125,000
The Valley City Building and Loan Association	200,000
The West Side Building and Loan Association	250,000
The Grand Rapids Building and Loan Association	500,000
The Holland Building and Loan Association	700,000

REAL ESTATE.

The Present and Prospective Value of Property.—Pointers as to Safe Investments.



HOSE who are in search of homes, business locations, factory sites or of safe and profitable investment, should visit Grand Rapids and inspect the superior advantages this city possesses in any and all of these particulars. Prices are low, terms are reasonable, values are steadily advancing, and the mechanic, the merchant, the manufacturer, and the capitalist—the man with limited means and he who has an abundance—each can find in this city what they desire.

The city includes about eight square miles of hill and valley, and the immediate suburbs on every side are rapidly becoming thickly populated. The streets are substantially paved or graveled. The water system for fire protection or for use covers nearly the entire corporation; gas mains and electric light wires extend in all the principal business and resident thoroughfares and avenues, and the street-car lines penetrate every section of the city.

RESIDENCE PROPERTY.

Residence property is especially cheap and available. Building lots of standard width and depth can be purchased, ranging in price anywhere from \$250 to ten times that amount, and the price payable in any manner desired: for cash, in weekly, monthly, or in quarterly installments.

For the lowest sum named a lot can be secured within the corporate limits, a few blocks, at the most, from the cars and in a section of the city that will quickly improve and develop. A very desirable lot can be purchased for from \$600 to \$800 on a graded street, near or on a street railroad, and in a good neighborhood, while for \$1,000 to \$1,200 a lot can be bought which will have included sewers, water, gas, sidewalks and other improvements, and be within easy walking distance of business. The choicest residence property can be had at prices ranging from \$1,500 or \$1,800 to \$2,500.

Those who would prefer to buy houses already built can find what they want from \$1,000 upward, payable, a nominal sum to bind the bargain, from \$150 to \$500, and the balance in easy installments.

From \$1,000 to \$1,500 will buy a cosy little home in the outskirts, easily reached by street car; \$2,000 to \$4,000 will buy a neat and commodious residence finely situated in regard to schools, business and accessibility; \$5,000 to \$8,000 will buy something handsome; from \$10,000 to \$15,000 or \$20,000 a mansion with all the modern improvements, and a palace for \$25,000 to \$35,000 and upward.

At prevailing prices for material and labor, a cottage with five rooms, suitable for a small family, can be erected for \$800. An attractive house of six or seven rooms can be constructed for from \$1,200 to \$1,500. A fine Queen Ann house, with good interior finish and many modern improvements, can be built for from \$2,000 to \$5,000. A brick residence, elegantly finished, will cost anywhere from \$8,000 upward.

For renting purposes houses can be secured for from \$8 to \$50 per month, according to location, size and style. A very desirable house can be rented for from \$15 to \$20 per month, conveniently situated and abundantly large for the ordinary family.

BUSINESS PROPERTY.

Transfers of the best business property have been so few within the past year that it is difficult to form an estimate of values. The last Monroe-street

property which changed hands commanded about \$500 a front foot. On the side streets, immediately off the main thoroughfare, and in the center of the business portion of the city, recent transfers have been made at from \$120 to \$250 per foot frontage. The choicest parcels now on the market are quoted at from \$300 to \$350, and very desirable pieces, in locations that are bound to be valuable for business purposes, can be had at \$100 or even less. Splendid business sites can be found away from the immediate trade circles, suitable for stores where families can get their household supplies, at very low figures—from \$600 to \$1,200 per lot of standard width, on the corner if preferred, and in the centers of large, rapidly growing and prosperous neighborhoods.

STORE RENTALS.

Single store rentals, including basement, range from \$700 to \$2,000 in the best localities and from \$400 to \$900 in very desirable places. Double stores and larger accommodations can be secured at very reasonable rates.

OFFICES.

For office purposes a suite of four to six large front rooms, steam heated, with brick vaults for storage of papers and books, and elevators, can be had for from \$500 to \$700. Single rooms rent for from \$50 to \$250 a year.

FACTORY SITES.

Factory property can be purchased within the city limits and within call of the fire department, in case of danger, and on the line of two or more railroads, for \$800 to \$1,500 an acre, and in the outskirts and just outside of the city at considerably less. These sites are easy of access by graded and graveled streets, and side tracks can be built from the railroads to any part of the premises, thus furnishing the best possible facilities for handling freight.

Sites along the river and the canals are held high, but not unreasonably so—from \$2,000 to \$7,000 will buy the best that are offered.

Factory room and power can be rented at almost any price desired.

COST OF MATERIAL AND LABOR.

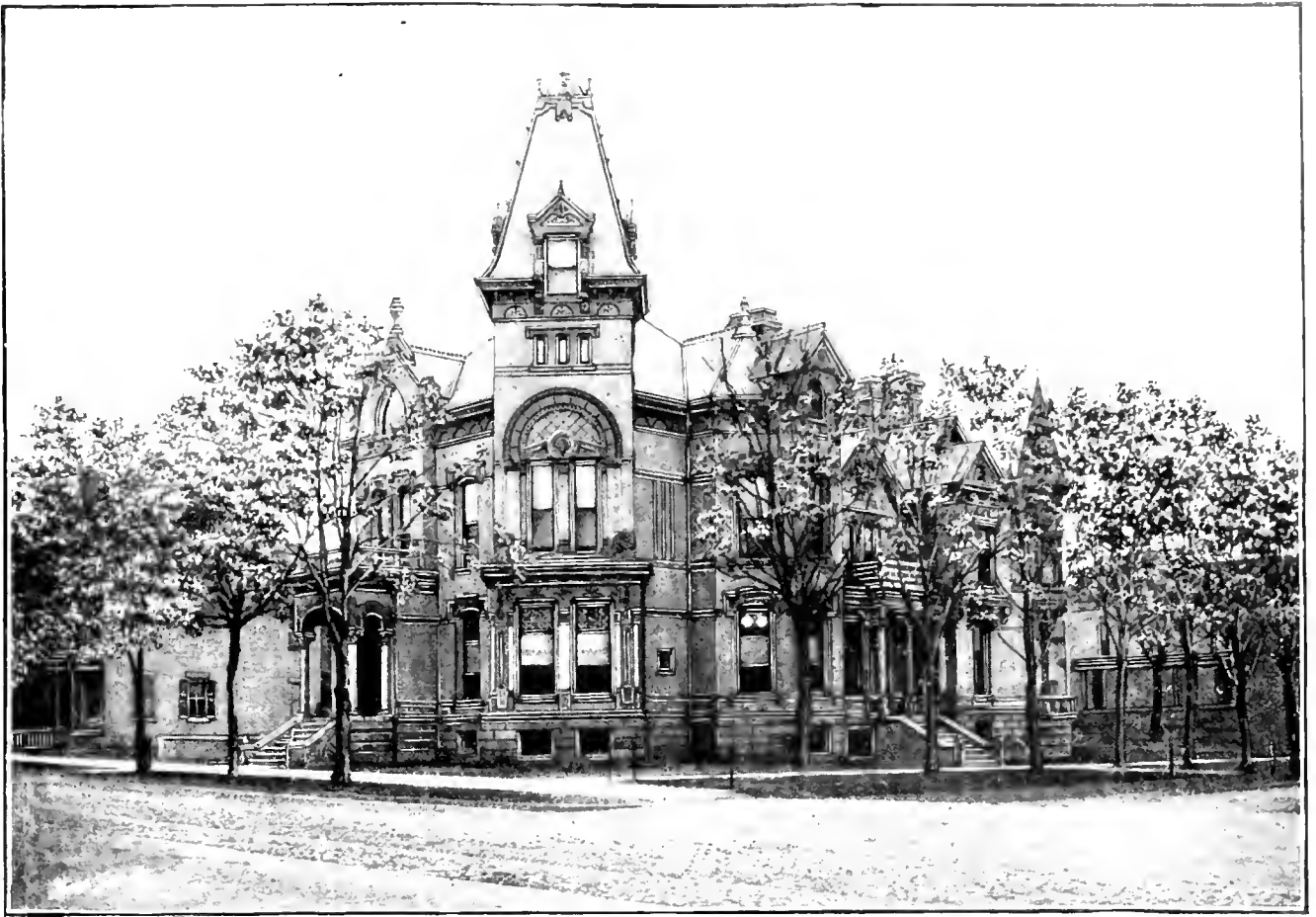
On the first of March prevailing prices for labor and building material were as follows: Masons and bricklayers, 45 cents an hour; carpenters and other artisans, \$2 to \$2.50 a day; laborers, \$1 to \$1.50 a day.

Common brick, \$4.50 to \$5 per 1,000; fire brick, \$28 per 1,000; foundation stone, \$5.50 to \$6.50 per cord; Petoskey lime, \$1; Marblehead and Ohio lime, 90 cents; Akron cement, \$1.20 per barrel in sacks; Louisville cement, \$1.10; stucco, 40 cents per sack; plastering hair, 30 cents per bushel; mill cull boards, \$8 per M; shipping culls, sheathing or roof boards, \$13; stock boards, No. 1, \$18; No. 2, \$16; timber, joist and scantling, 12 to 16 feet, hemlock, \$10; pine, \$13; pine flooring, dressed and matched, \$13 to \$20; bevel siding, \$12 to \$18; ceiling pine, \$12 to \$25; Norway, \$25; finishing lumber, pine, \$20 to \$35 for 7/8 inch, and \$40 to \$50 for 1 1/8 and 2 inch; lath, \$2.50 per M; shingles at \$3.25 for 16-inch stars, \$2.25 for seconds.

Other materials, nails, paints, oils, varnishes and fixtures can be bought here as cheaply as in Detroit or Chicago.

ADVANTAGES PRESENTED FOR INVESTMENT.

There is not a city in the country where real estate investment can be made that will be so safe and so surely profitable as in Grand Rapids. The



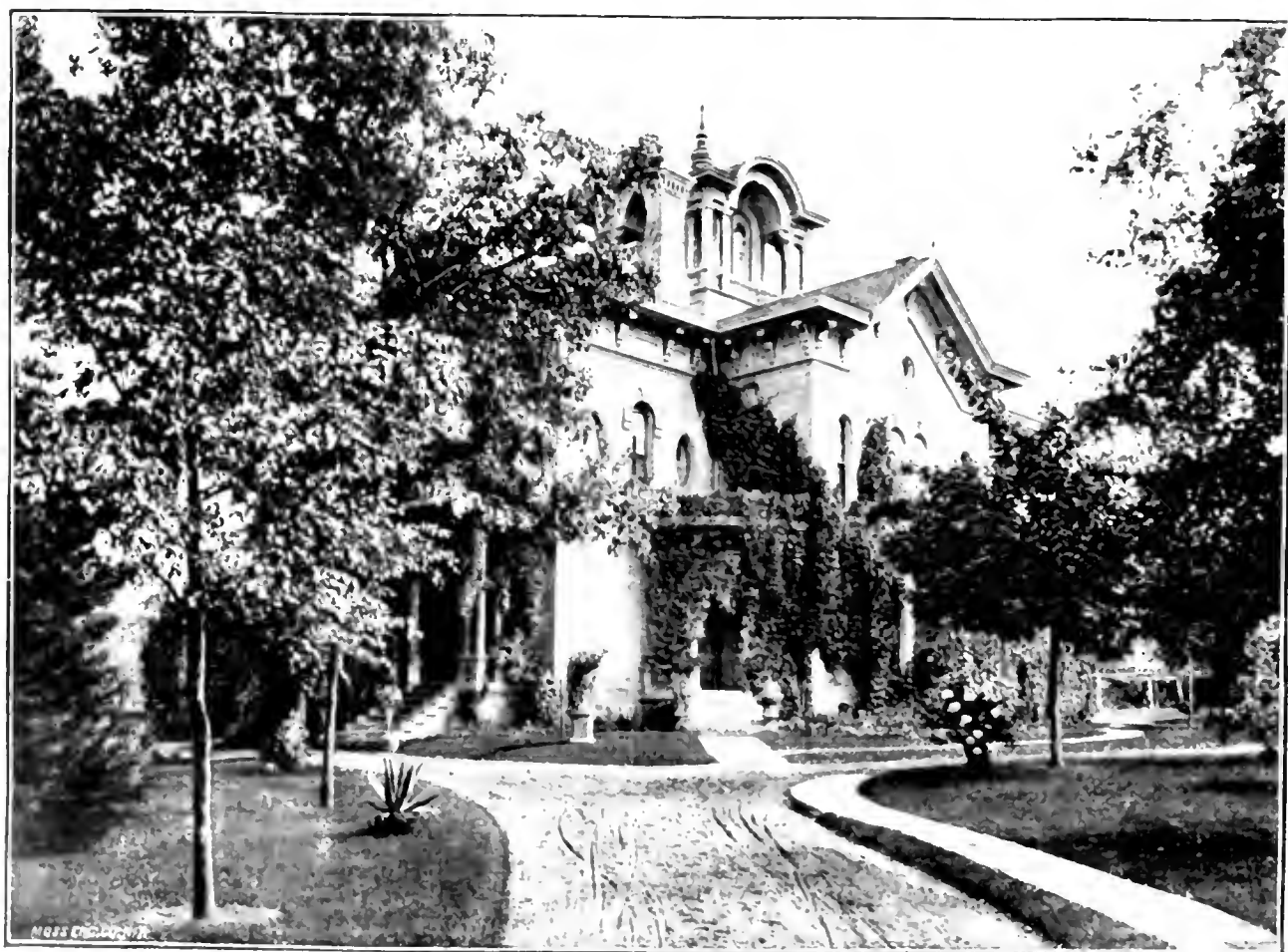
RESIDENCE MAJOR AMASA B. WATSON, FULTON AND SHELDON STREETS



RESIDENCE THOMAS D. GIBSON, E. J. ALLEN STREET



NEW YORK, 1880. 10 EAST 100TH AND 101ST STREETS



NEW YORK, 1880. 10 EAST 100TH AND 101ST STREETS



RESIDENCE GAIUS W. PERKINS FOUNTAIN AND LAFAYETTE STREETS



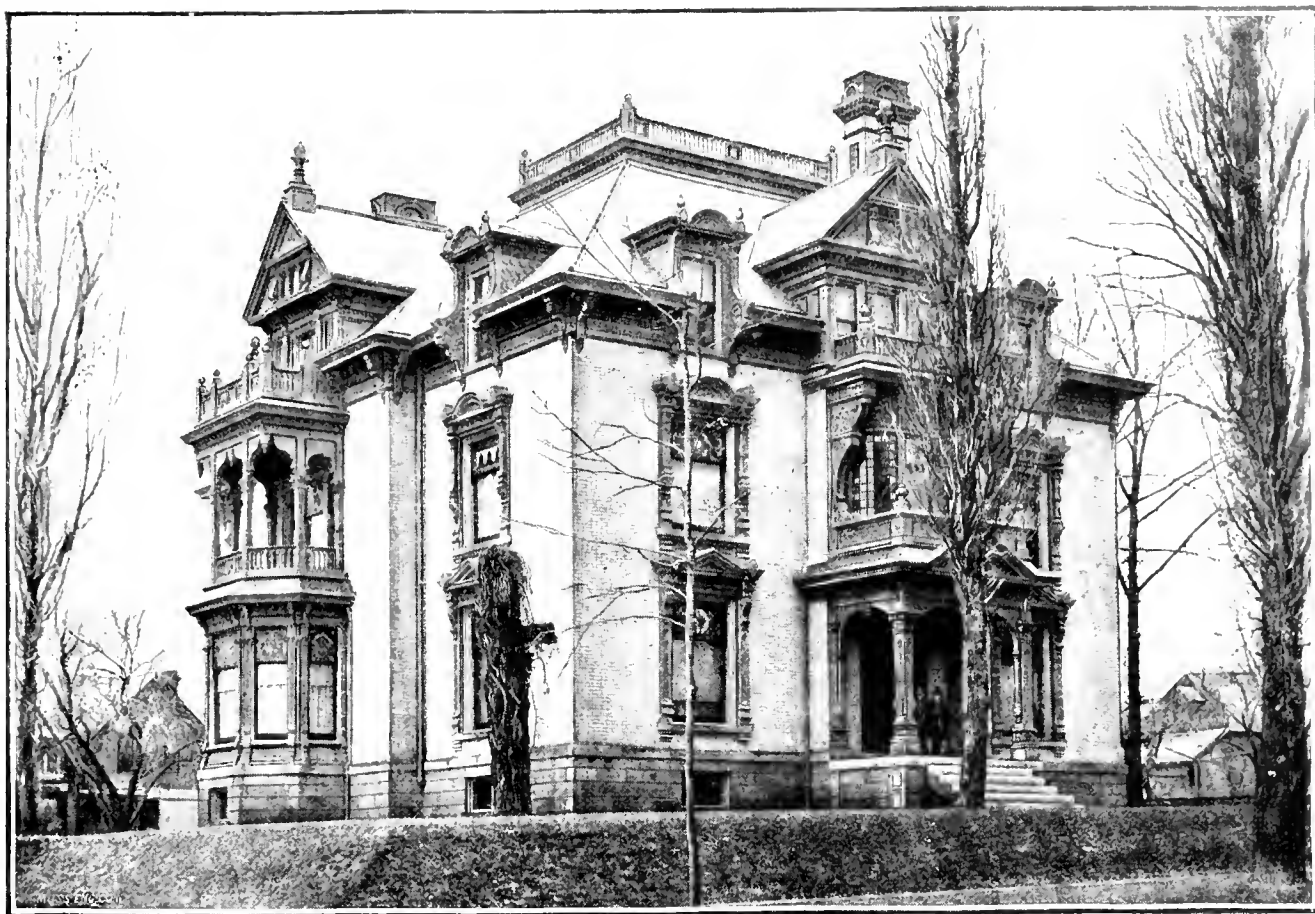
RESIDENCE OF STEPHEN WOODBURY 25 CHILDS STREET



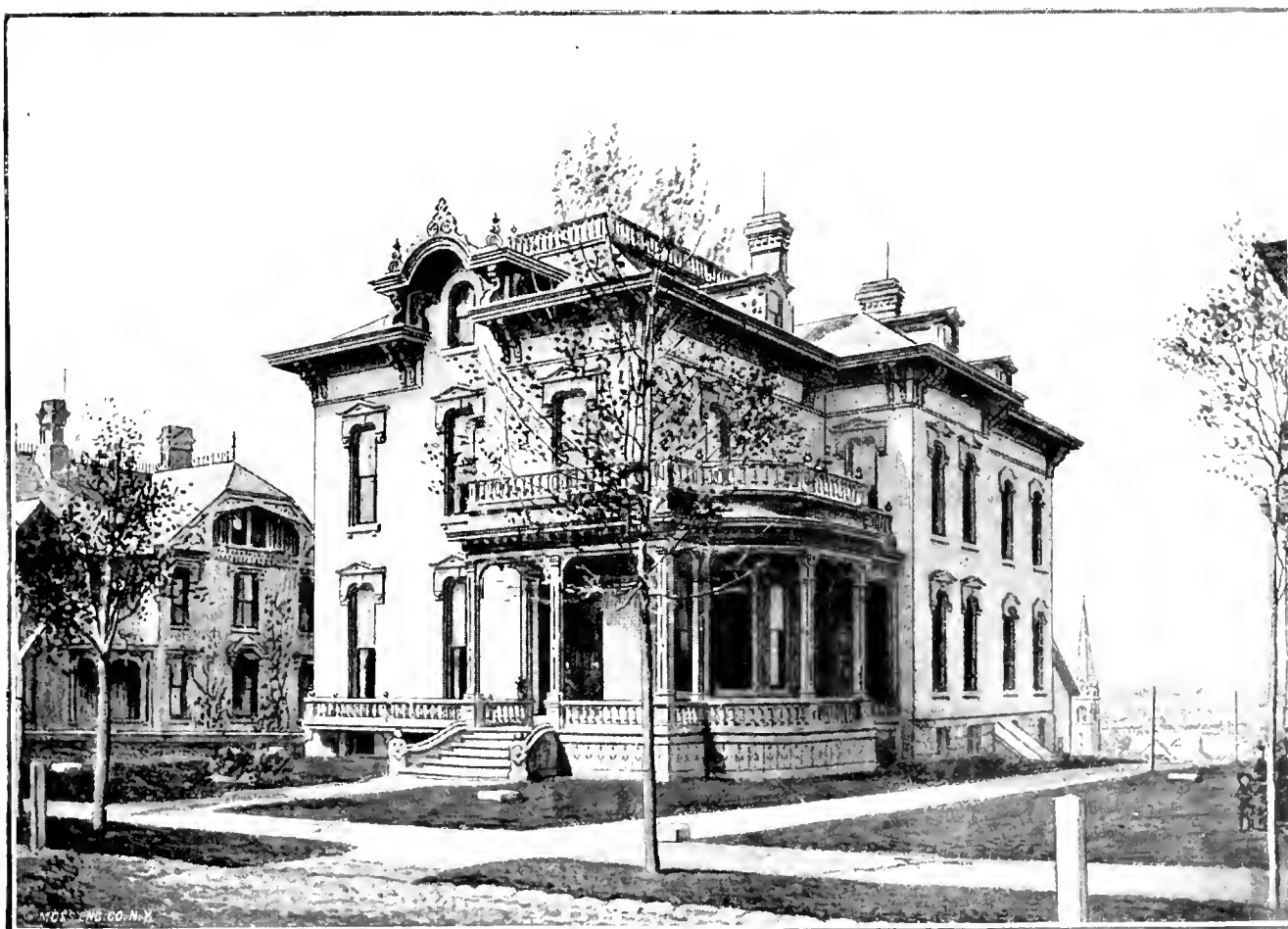
RESIDENCE EDWIN L. UHL 211 FOUNTAIN STREET.



RESIDENCE MRS. SARAH A. MORRIS CHERRY STREET AND COLLEGE AVENUE.



RESIDENCE D. A. BLODGETT -276 CHERRY STREET.



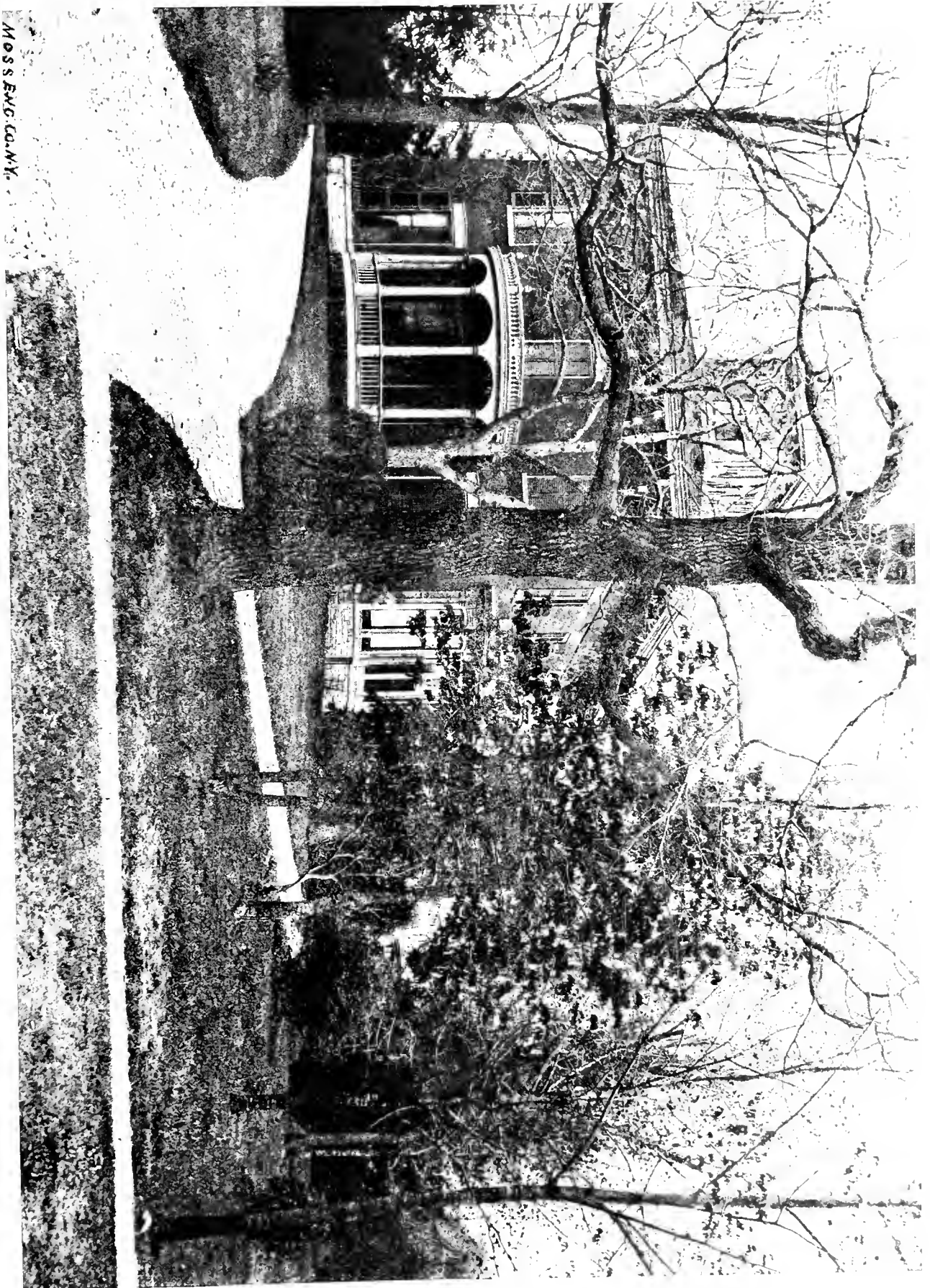
RESIDENCE W. R. SHELLEY, LAFAYETTE ST.



RESIDENCE GEO. W. GAY—380 EAST FULTON STREET.

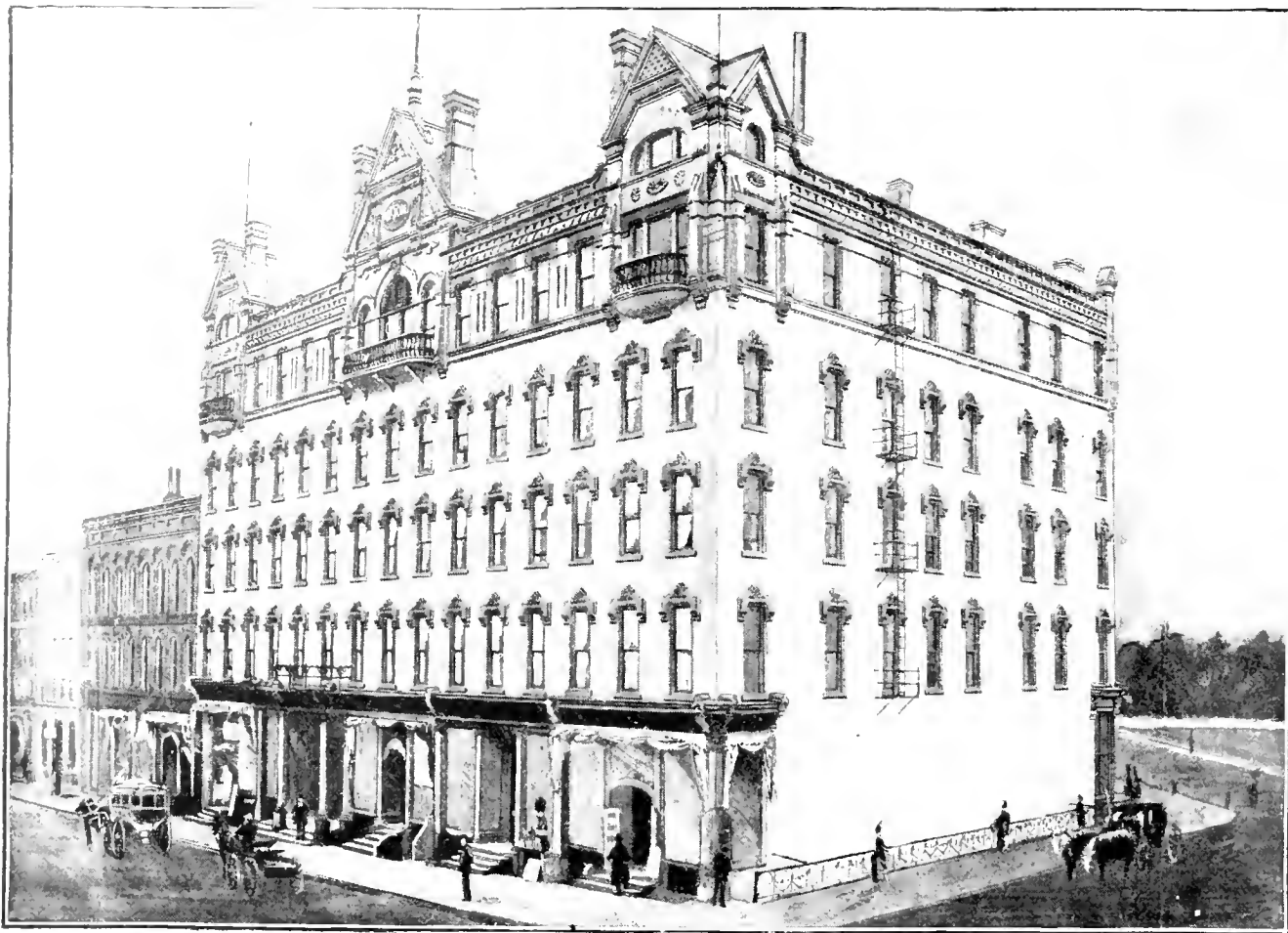


RESIDENCE COL. F. CROFTON FOX AND CHAS. FOX, CHERRY AND COLLEGE AVENUE.

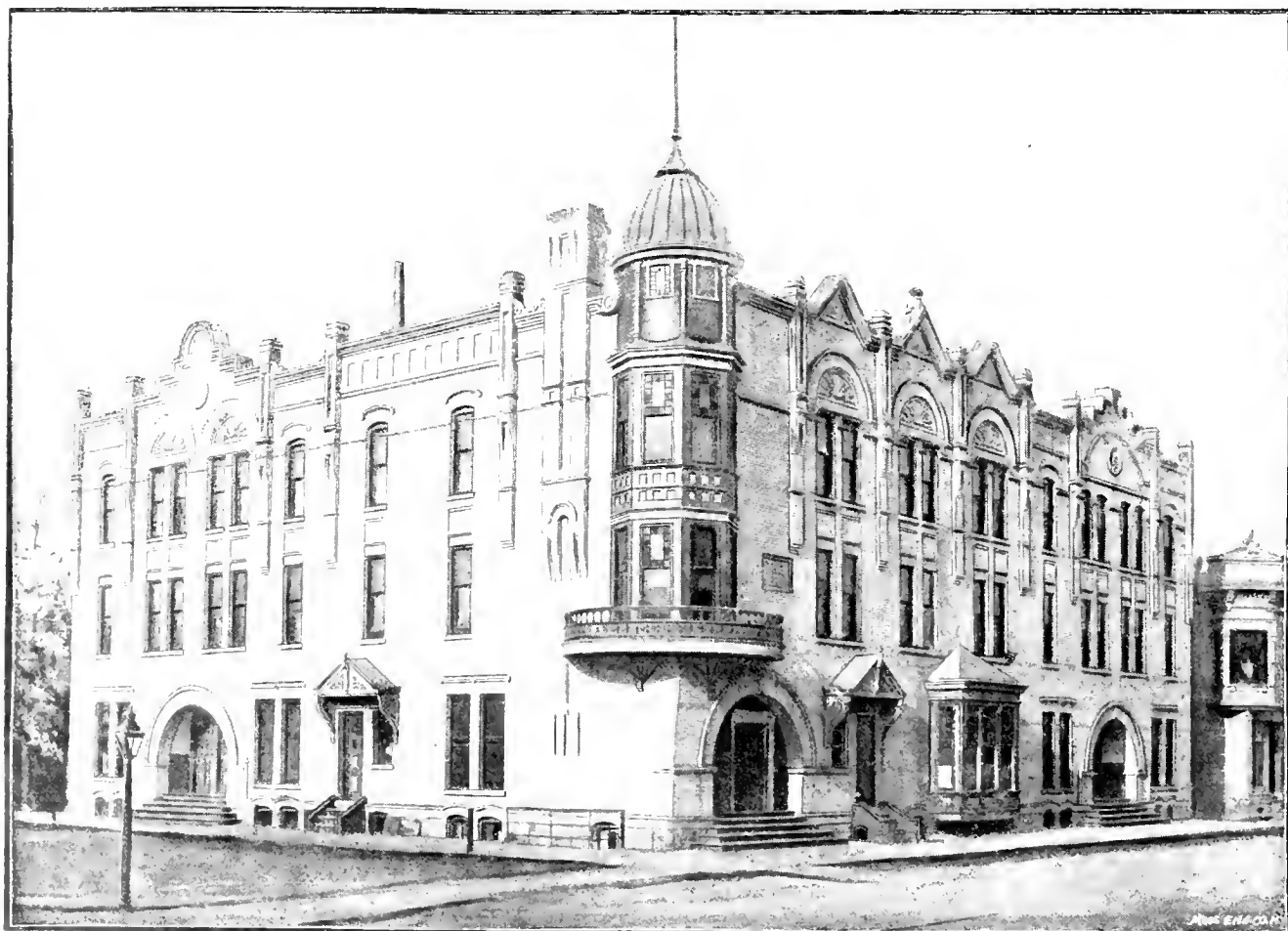


MOSS & CO. N.Y.

RESIDENCE OF D. H. WATERS, COLLEGE AVENUE.



"THE MORTON."



THE DERBY HOTEL.

prices, to-day, for all kinds of property, business, residence and factory, in the center of the city and in the suburbs, are very low, compared with other cities, and the prices are steadily advancing. There is no boom or fictitious enhancement of value, but it is a healthy, vigorous growth, permanent, substantial and fully warranted by the circumstances. On an average, all over the city, the prices to day are ten per cent. higher than a year ago, while in

some sections the increase has been 30, 40 and even 50 per cent. As the city increases in population, as new street car lines are built and new manufacturing institutions are established, the demand for property will grow stronger and prices will continue to go up, realizing a handsome profit to those who have their money invested in real estate. The demand for houses to rent is heavier than the supply, and from 10 to 12 per cent. interest on investments of this kind can readily be realized.

Hotels.

THE hotels of Grand Rapids have assisted not a little in spreading the name and fame of the city. In number, size, appearance and general appointments they will compare favorably with cities twice as large in population. By reason of the excellent character of her hotels Grand Rapids has become the recognized "convention city of Michigan," and thus she is frequently styled. The first-class houses are up with the age in everything that goes to make up the model caravansary. They are supplied with passenger elevators, heated by steam throughout, supplied with electrical bells, both call and fire, and every modern convenience. The Morton has accommodations for 350 guests; Sweet's, 400; Eagle, 250; Clarendon, 200;

Bridge Street, 200, and The Derby, 250. These houses are all first class, and it will thus be seen their accommodations are for 1,050 people. Of the second class hotels the Michigan House has accommodations for 200 guests; the European, 100; New Rathbun, 150; Union Depot, 50, and thirty-four others 700, making a total of 1,200. There are also a large number of first and second-class family hotels, and of the first mentioned the Vendome can care for 100 regular patrons; the Warwick, 100; the Livingstone, 325; Brunswick, 125; Irving, 100, and Park Place, 100. The city has established a national reputation for caring for great conventions and great crowds, and the traveling men skip many towns, that they may spend their Sundays at one of the city's fine public houses.

Vital Statistics.

The Conditions which Places Grand Rapids so High in the List of Cities, as Shown by Mortality Reports, Atmospheric Conditions.

AMONG the many natural advantages this city and surrounding country has, there are none which strike the intelligent investigator with more force than the peculiarity of its topography and climate. The surface of the country is rolling, sloping towards channels which lead all flood-waters quickly away to the river which rapidly flows through the heart of this city, thus providing for its complete and thorough drainage. The elevation of nearly all of the resident property of the city secures an ample supply of pure air.

TEMPERATURE.

The temperature of this region will compare favorably with any part of this or any other country. We quote from records published by the State Board of Health of Michigan. The average temperature for twenty years, from 1864, by months is:

For {	JAN.	FEB.	MAR.	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEP.	OCT.	NOV.	DEC.
	22.43	21.58	21.61	45.71	58.27	67.83	71.03	69.13	69.46	43.31	35.50	25.70

The average temperature for the 20 years is 49.68°.

The highest temperature for 12 years, from 1873 to 1884, was 101° August 11, 1884; and the lowest 31° below zero, February 8, 1875.

WIND AND STORMS.

Although the city is not situated immediately upon the abrupt and elevated shores of Lake Michigan, yet this large body of water has a very marked influence, not only in *moderating the temperature*, but also as regards the *force of the winds*. Storms are, for the most part, broken up and their

force destroyed by the waters of the lake. The oldest inhabitant cannot remember any wind storm that ever did any serious damage in this city.

RAINFALL.

Grand Rapids is remarkably favored by nature in regard to rainfall as compared with the most favored localities. Statistics show that droughts and excess are exceptional, and that the average rainfall for twenty years is about thirty two inches, and that the deep-snow line in this part of the State is about one degree of latitude north of the city.

HEALTH.

Grand Rapids is naturally favored in the fact that the seasons of heat and cold are not long enough to give any disease that is most likely to prevail in those seasons a chance before there is a change which usually checks them, either by frost or warmth.

Conclusive proof of the natural advantages that this locality has in relation to health can be found in the latest statistics of the mortality of the leading cities of the country for the past year, as furnished to the world by the Boards of Health of those cities.

In this city the average for the past five years was 0.24 per 1,000, being lower than cities of those localities whose climates are celebrated the world over as health resorts, Colorado and California.

By a careful inspection of causes of death it is found there is no excess of deaths from causes that can properly be charged to this climate or can be claimed to be natural to the country. The principal diseases are hereditary, imported by the influx of population, or caused by excesses in their various forms. There is no region of the country where there are more natural advantages in all respects in regard to health and length of life, and nothing short of negligence or excesses, unless they are already bred in down before they arrive, will prevent immigrants from enjoying the full benefit of the

RAILROAD FACILITIES.

The Valley City the Greatest Railroad Center in the State—The Roads Centering Here and the Points Reached by Them.



GRAND RAPIDS is pre-eminently the railroad center of Michigan; no other city has so many actual avenues of entrance by rail now, or the prospect of so large and important additions to its present rail facilities in the near future. There are now ten actual arteries of entrance or travel completed, another will be finished before midsummer of 1888, while two others are projected by organized companies with fair prospects of ultimate realization, and the year 1888 will almost certainly see such extensions of two of the existing systems as will make of them, in practical effect, two more routes into populous, thriving, and hence important territory. These railroad facilities, as may be seen from even a hasty glance at the railroad map on the back cover, place our manufacturers and merchants in communication with all the rest of the world, under exceedingly favorable circumstances. No other inland city offers superior advantages for freights, while the volume of traffic, rapidly growing, in and out of the city, secures for shippers not only excellent and improving rates, but superior attention and service. Railroad officials feel that the business of the city is richly worth striving for, worth cultivating and retaining if possible.

THE FIRST RAILROAD.

The first railroad to enter the city, in point of time, was what is now known as the Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee, one of the most important links in the Grand Trunk system in the United States and Canada, on the great route from Milwaukee to the seaboard. It offers four passenger trains each way, daily, and the number of freights is only limited by its business.

THE GRAND RAPIDS AND INDIANA RAILROAD.

The next in point of seniority, and the most important in its influence on the business of the city, the character and relation of its traffic to the city, is the Grand Rapids and Indiana, which has its headquarters, general offices and chief shops in Grand Rapids, was originated here, and is vitally interested in the well-being and growth of the city. This road is one of the most important north and south lines in the country. Built north from here twenty miles as early as the winter of 1866, and a completed through line from Richmond, Indiana, to the Straits of Mackinaw, 460 miles, in 1880, it handles a vast and growing business, and is of the first importance to the jobbing trade as well as the manufacturers of the city. The line has, at the present, through car service to Cincinnati over the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton, from Richmond, Indiana, almost as favorable as over its own tracks; but, in connection with other roads of the great Pennsylvania Railroad system, of which it is a recognized and important link, it will doubtless build its own line into that gateway of the South, Cincinnati.

This road has been the chief factor in the development of Northern Michigan. It has promoted the building of important commercial and industrial centers where but twenty years ago was a wilderness unbroken save by the lumberman's axe, and those towns with their rural population have vital interest in and dependence upon Grand Rapids. This company at the Straits of Mackinac has direct connection with the Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic system, both to St. Paul and Minneapolis and the great Northwest, and to the Sault and the Canadian Pacific and other systems in Ontario. Its Northern connections are thus almost as important as its

Southern; and it crosses between Grand Rapids and its southern terminus pretty much every great east and west trunk line in the United States, and gives the resulting advantages. From and north of Grand Rapids it has built many branches from eight to forty miles long, feeders which greatly increase its facilities and the commerce of Grand Rapids. This road enters the timber land, deciduous and hardwood, north of the city, and is one of the chief routes for that supply. The most important of its present feeders is the one to Muskegon, forty miles, where it reaches Lake Michigan and the traffic of that port. Another branch, twenty-six miles in length, reaches Traverse City. It is contemplated to build still another to Manistee in 1888, to reach another of the most important of Lake Michigan's ports.

SUMMER RESORTS.

Through the able management of this road, the great value of Northern Michigan as a summer resort region, as a paradise for hunters and fishermen, has become known throughout North America. This interest, already vast, is rapidly growing, and contributes in a marked degree to the volume of business of Grand Rapids.

PERMANENT INVESTMENTS.

The Grand Rapids and Indiana Company has its construction and repair shops in Grand Rapids, within the corporate limits. These now employ about 500 mechanics, and use a large amount of material. In the near future they will probably make all the rolling stock of the company, and will grow to three or four times their present size and importance. This company owns what is known as the Union Depot in Grand Rapids, which is used by all its own trains, and also now by trains on the various divisions of the Chicago and West Michigan, the Michigan Central, and the Detroit, Lansing and Northern. It is probable that in the near future the passenger trains on the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern and the Detroit, Grand Haven and Milwaukee roads will also use this depot.

There are now forty-five passenger trains in and out of this depot every twenty-four hours, and the coming twelve months will probably see this increased to between sixty and seventy. The company is preparing plans for a first-class passenger station to be completed in 1888. To make it consistent with the city and its business, it is proposed to spend between \$250,000 and \$300,000 on the structure and track facilities.

THE LAKE SHORE AND MICHIGAN SOUTHERN RAILROAD.

Next in point of time of construction is the Kalamazoo Division of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern system. This division is ninety-four miles long, south from Grand Rapids, and at its southern terminus, White Pigeon, connects with the main line of that system. So it, too, furnishes competition as well as facilities for both Eastern and Western business. It is now running four passenger trains daily, two each way, with through car facilities.

THE CHICAGO AND WEST MICHIGAN RAILROAD.

Next in order of time is what is now known as the Chicago and West Michigan system, which is second on the list in the importance of its connections and business relations to Grand Rapids. Two of its chief divisions terminate here, and a part of its general offices, including the general freight and passenger offices, are located here.

The most important of its divisions, ending here, is the main line, from Grand Rapids to LaCrosse, Ind., 153 miles in length. Reaching that city it crosses all the great east and west lines of the country north of the Ohio River, with the resultant advantages. At New Buffalo, 115 miles from Grand Rapids, the road makes direct connection with the Michigan Central, and at present has such intimate relations with that company it runs through cars and solid trains into Chicago, sixty-eight miles further. This line also connects with the great southern systems of the country, and also with the bituminous coal fields of Western Indiana.

Another of its divisions, the Nawaygo, runs north from Grand Rapids to Baldwin, seventy-four miles, thence connecting with the Flint and Pere Marquette system, and thence to Ludington and Manistee. On the route are important lumber interests, and at White Cloud, forty-seven miles from Grand Rapids, is the junction with the Big Rapids and Muskegon division, fifty-five miles long, a very important lumber road. This division is quite certain to be extended in 1888, probably in two directions, the main line continuing through north to Traverse City, the other branch through north-west to Manistee with its large local and lake port business.

This system has also another division known as the Northern, running from Allegan, 103 miles, to Pentwater, through Holland City, where it crosses the main line, twenty-six miles from Grand Rapids, Grand Haven, Muskegon and other important points. It also furnishes connection over the Jackson and Mackinaw system, Michigan division, *via* Allegan, between Grand Rapids and Toledo. This company runs thirteen passenger trains in and out of the city daily.

THE MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD.

Next in the order of its general completion, though not of its entrance to the city, is the Michigan Central system—the fourth of Grand Rapids connections with the seaboard.

This is the Grand Rapids division from Grand Rapids to Jackson, a distance of ninety-four miles. At the latter city direct connection with the main line is reached, with its more than 1,200 miles of track aside from this division. This company is now running eight passenger trains in and out of this city daily, and will probably add two more—one each way—soon.

THE DETROIT, LANSING AND NORTHERN RAILROAD.

The Detroit, Lansing and Northern Company is now running four solid trains (two each way) daily between Grand Rapids and East Saginaw, a distance of 115 miles.

At Edmore, on this system, connection is made with the Stanton branch, from Ionia to Big Rapids, 63 miles long.

This company, through a new organization known as the Grand Rapids, Lansing and Detroit Railroad Company, is building, and will complete early in May, 1888, a line not quite 50 miles long, from Grand Rapids east to Grand Ledge. This line shortens the distance to Detroit and the East a dozen miles and nearly an hour in time, and gives direct connection with the State Capital, and will prove a most important addition to the facilities of this city and Western Michigan. At least eight through trains daily will run over the line.

PROJECTED RAILROADS.

The foregoing brief sketch gives but a glance at the actual rail advantages. Among the projects for which companies are already organized, which have merit, and, hence, are likely to develop into facts, are these: The Grand Rapids and Chicago Air Line, surmised to be a Grand Trunk scheme, and the Grand Rapids, Rockford and Greenville Road, now partly graded between Rockford (fourteen miles north of Grand Rapids, on the Grand Rapids and Indiana) and Greenville, and intended, eventually, to cross the State diagonally through a most important lumber district to Alpena, a distance approximating 100 miles.

These facts show how great are the present and prospective advantages of Grand Rapids business men in that most important matter, transportation.

The following are the aggregate figures of the business done by the five railroads and one steamship line centering in the city during the year 1887:

Freight forwarded, tons.....	397,061
Freight received, tons.....	585,624
Passengers outward.....	297,508
Passenger inward.....	323,611
Freight Trains, daily.....	25 in, 31 out
Passenger Trains, daily.....	34 each way

STREET RAILWAY SERVICE.

Next in importance to its facilities for speedy and cheap communication with the balance of the world, in every large and growing city—especially in every manufacturing center, where cheap houses, quickly, easily and cheaply accessible to or from all points of the municipality are a necessity—are ample street railway facilities. In this department the city offers great advantages already secured, with the certain prospect of their great extension in the very near future.

There are two companies operating distinct systems here, which will insure healthful competition in the matter of providing new lines quite as soon as they are likely to be needed or prove profitable.

One of these companies, the Street Railway Company of Grand Rapids, now has nearly fifteen miles of track in its system. All these lines pass directly through the very heart of the city, through the main business streets. One of the lines, a little more than four miles long, extends from the extreme north of the city to and along the extreme south boundary. This line, part of the way parallel with the river, connects one of the most important railway systems and a great manufacturing and residence district with the center of town, thence passes south through a mile and a half of business streets devoted to stores, to a superior residence district and the fair grounds and race track. A second line crosses the city, from the west side to the east side, uniting the portions separated by the river, and also running from the extreme north nearly to the south. This route also is nearly four miles long and passes through the very heart of the city. Two branches of this route, in effect, one from the extreme west, almost at the center of the city, the other from the extreme northwest, run to the heart of the city only. The third route of this company extends from the extreme southwest to the extreme east. This line is about three miles long and also runs through the business center. These pass by or near the chief churches, school houses and the public buildings, as well as the manufacturing and commercial districts, and through the more populous residence portions. On the east line of the city, two routes connect with each other, making a circuit or loop line, and also with a steam line a little more than two miles long leading to the lakes—two bodies of water east of the city, one of them a mile and a half long and over half a mile wide; the other nearly half a mile in diameter. These lakes furnish the chief local pleasure resorts.

The second company, the Valley City Cable and Street Railway Company, made its first investment in Grand Rapids in 1887, and its first projects are not yet entirely completed, though portions of them are already in popular and successful operation. The main stem of this system is a cable line from the east bank of the river directly east and up a hill the top of which is about 140 feet higher than the river level, something more than a mile, on a street which is almost at the precise center of the city north and south. This line, passing from the business heart of the city, crossing the north and south lines of the other system at almost the center of town, passes the City Hall, the Postoffice and other prominent public structures, and reaches the top of a hill on a route wholly impracticable to horse-car service. This main stem is connected with, or rather connects, an important system of horse-car lines. One of these, already built, passes on top of the hill, to the north end of the city, through a very desirable and populous residence district; its cars will all reach the heart of the city by the cable line. Another line of horse cars penetrates to the southern line of the city, a mile and a half from the west end of the cable, and is in operation. A third line runs through the heart of the city, thence crosses the river on a third bridge, to the west, and reaches the West Side a mile and a half distant

from the cable system. This company already has a franchise for at least seven miles more of its cable system, forming a belt line which takes in substantially the whole city. It also has a franchise for and will construct a dummy line to the lakes already mentioned.

In this connection, not distinctly as a street railway facility, yet such in practical results, should be mentioned the Reed's Lake branch of the Grand Rapids, Lansing and Detroit Railroad. This company, from a point on its main line a little south of the city, has built a branch about a mile and a half long to the lakes and proposes to run frequent and regular passenger trains for pleasure resorters and suburban passengers, to the Union Depot.

It is aiding in the development of quite a large suburban settlement, and probably will provide train service for the entire year.

All the railways entering the city have suburban stations, and they are already preparing for special suburban train service in addition to the stops of all their many regular trains now entering and leaving the city.

From this outline it will be seen that capitalists have unbounded faith in the future of the city and in this branch of business, and propose to greatly increase the present facilities at once, so that any who may so desire can secure homes "well out of the city" in any direction and still be exceedingly near all other parts, because of the cheap street-car service.

Charitable Homes and Hospitals.



IN the matter of public and religious charities Grand Rapids is not surpassed by any city of its size in the country, and this fact describes to the thoughtful a population of the highest and most prosperous type. The charitable homes and hospitals in and about the city are constructed upon a large and generous scale.

UNION BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION.

The Union Benevolent Association, organized nearly forty years, owns and maintains a home and hospital that is one of the handsomest properties of this class in the State. It is located at the corner of College avenue and Lyon street. The building is large, handsome and is fitted throughout with all the more modern conveniences for the care and treatment of the unfortunate. In connection with the home is a training school for nurses, and the society also maintains an outside relief committee, to supplement its great work for humanity. Its home and grounds cost upwards of \$40,000.

ST. MARK'S HOME AND HOSPITAL.

St. Mark's Home and Hospital, which is maintained under the auspices of St. Mark's Episcopal parish, is at present located upon Island street. Its object is similar to that of the Union Benevolent Association—to provide a home, and care for the aged, sick, poor and infirm. The work of the society has so far outgrown its present quarters that a new, large and commodious hospital building is to be at once erected at the northeast corner of East Bridge and Bostwick streets. The site, costing \$11,500, has been secured and plans perfected for a \$50,000 structure to be completed during 1888.

LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR.

The Catholic churches of the city maintain, under the immediate supervision of the Little Sisters of the Poor, a home for the aged poor. But one wing of the large and elegant new building projected has been built and is now in use. The building is a model in plain architectural beauty and its appointments. It is located on South Lafayette street, just south of Cherry street. The property has cost \$40,000 thus far, and when completed will have cost nearly \$100,000.

HOME FOR FALLEN WOMEN.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union maintains a home and hospital for unfortunate and fallen women upon East Fulton street. The doors of the institution are also thrown open to women of all classes who need temporary aid and assistance.

CATHOLIC ORPHAN ASYLUM.

The Catholic Orphan Asylum is an institution of the near future. The plans are prepared for a handsome structure, to be of the best materials and to possess all the modern improvements, which shall cost about \$100,000. The Catholic societies of the diocese have already secured the site for the building, the ten-acre tract lying between East Leonard and Carrier streets,

North avenue and North College avenue. Work upon the structure will be pushed the present year.

CITY HOSPITAL.

The city maintains a hospital for the proper care and treatment of city charges suffering from contagious diseases. It is located upon East street, near the southeast corner of the city; it is a brick structure and cost \$7,000.

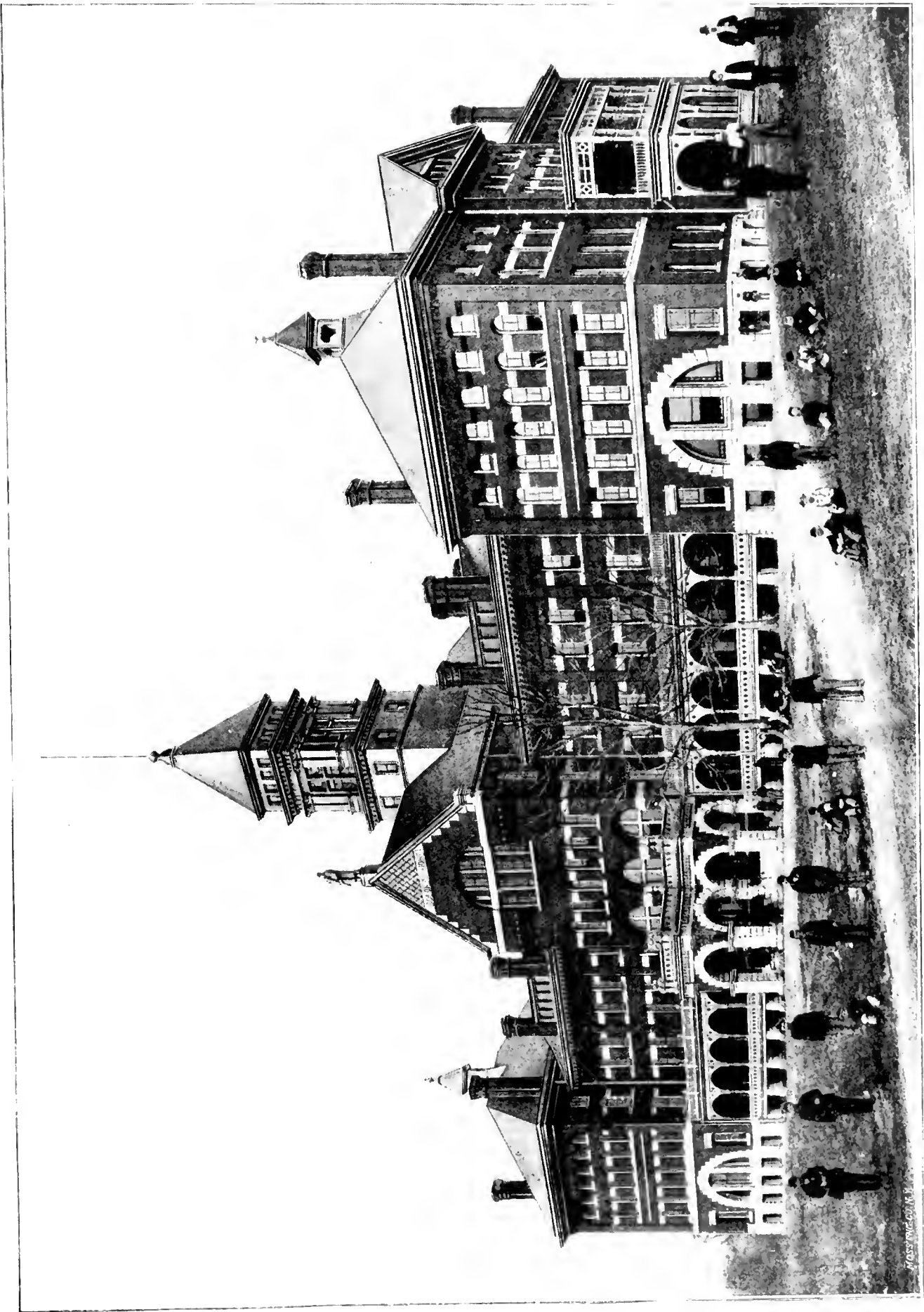
Besides these there are a number of similar homes and hospitals projected, and there are a number of private homes and hospitals that are well regulated and maintained.

MICHIGAN SOLDIERS' HOME.

Just north of the city and upon high and beautiful grounds, sloping to the Grand River, is located the Michigan Soldiers' Home, an institution established and maintained by the State for the care of her soldier wards. The institution is one of the leading places of attraction in the State, and is constructed upon a broad and liberal plan. The main structure is of brick and red sandstone and has a total frontage of 250 feet, its greatest depth being 120 feet. The central portion of the building is four stories high, 82 feet to the apex of the roof, and the two wings are three stories high, 48 feet to the eaves. A tower rises over the center of the structure 136 feet. The interior of the building is similar to other structures of this class and there are accommodations for 450 inmates. There are storage buildings surrounding and the grounds, comprising 144 acres, afford ample room for the pleasure and profit of the veterans. The grounds cost \$16,500 and were donated by the city; the main building cost \$100,000 and the surrounding buildings, with the water works, cost \$50,000 more. The Soldiers' Home is one of the prided institutions of the State, and the citizens of Grand Rapids take great interest in it. The grounds are reached by a beautiful drive along the river and over one of the finest boulevards in the Northwest.

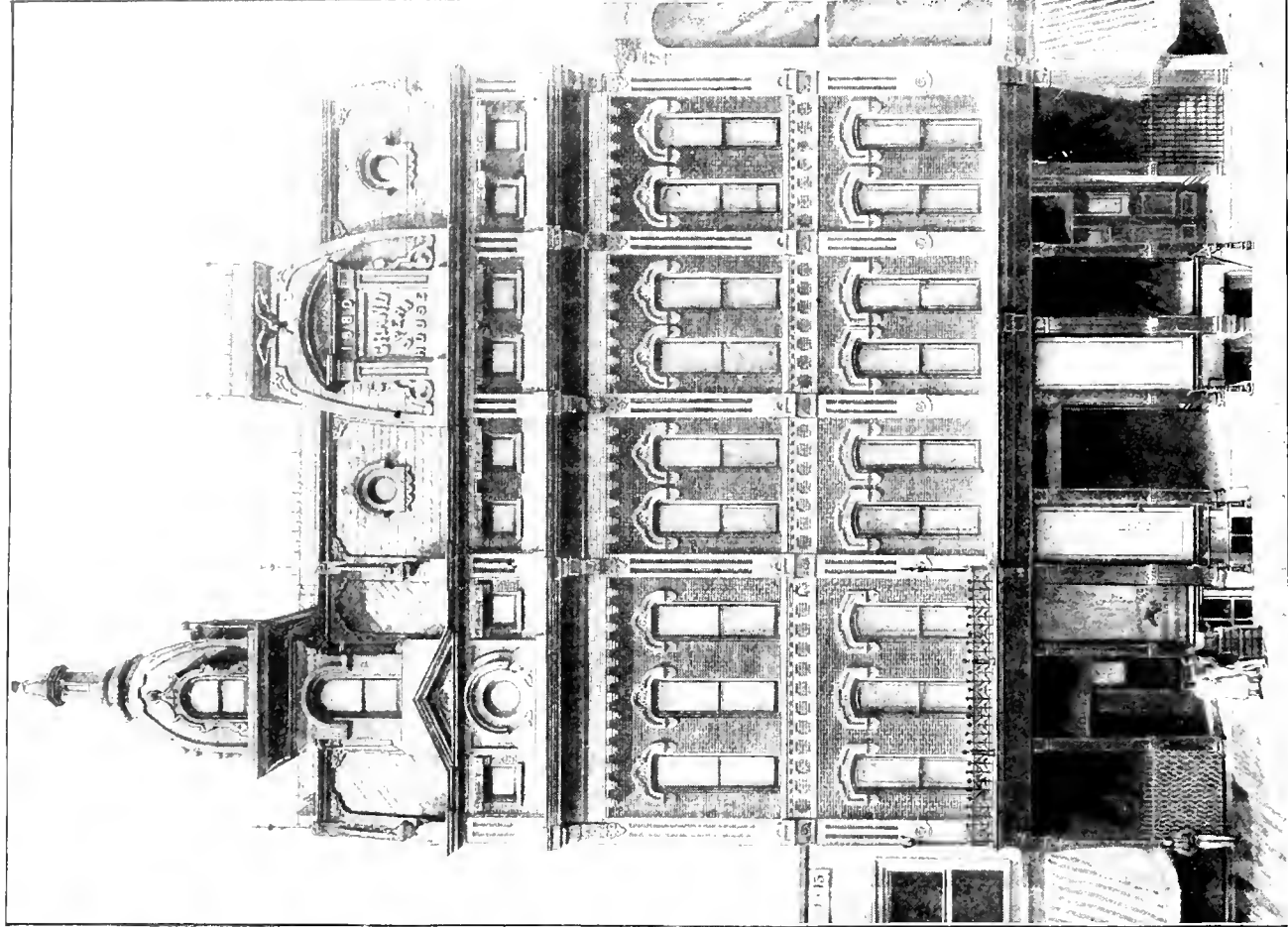
MASONIC HOME.

The Masonic Home, to be erected by the members of the order in Michigan, is designed to afford relief to worthy Master Masons, their widows and orphans. The association has located this institution near Grand Rapids upon high and rolling land overlooking Reed's Lake. Plans have been adopted for the building and its erection is to be accomplished the present year. The home will be a solid, substantial and handsome structure of red brick and stone, and will cost \$60,000. It will be two stories high, with a lofty attic; of the Romanesque style of architecture, with a tower to extend 100 feet above the ground; will have two fronts, both similar in design, one facing toward the north and the lake and the other facing west and toward the popular driveway, each front being 130 feet long. Along these fronts are porches and balconies and the building will be one the Masons of the State can take just pride in. A hospital building, detached from the home, boiler house, also detached, and other buildings will be erected upon the handsome property. The street railway, the cable railway and a branch of the new Grand Rapids, Lansing and Detroit Railroad gives easy access to the home and grounds from the city.

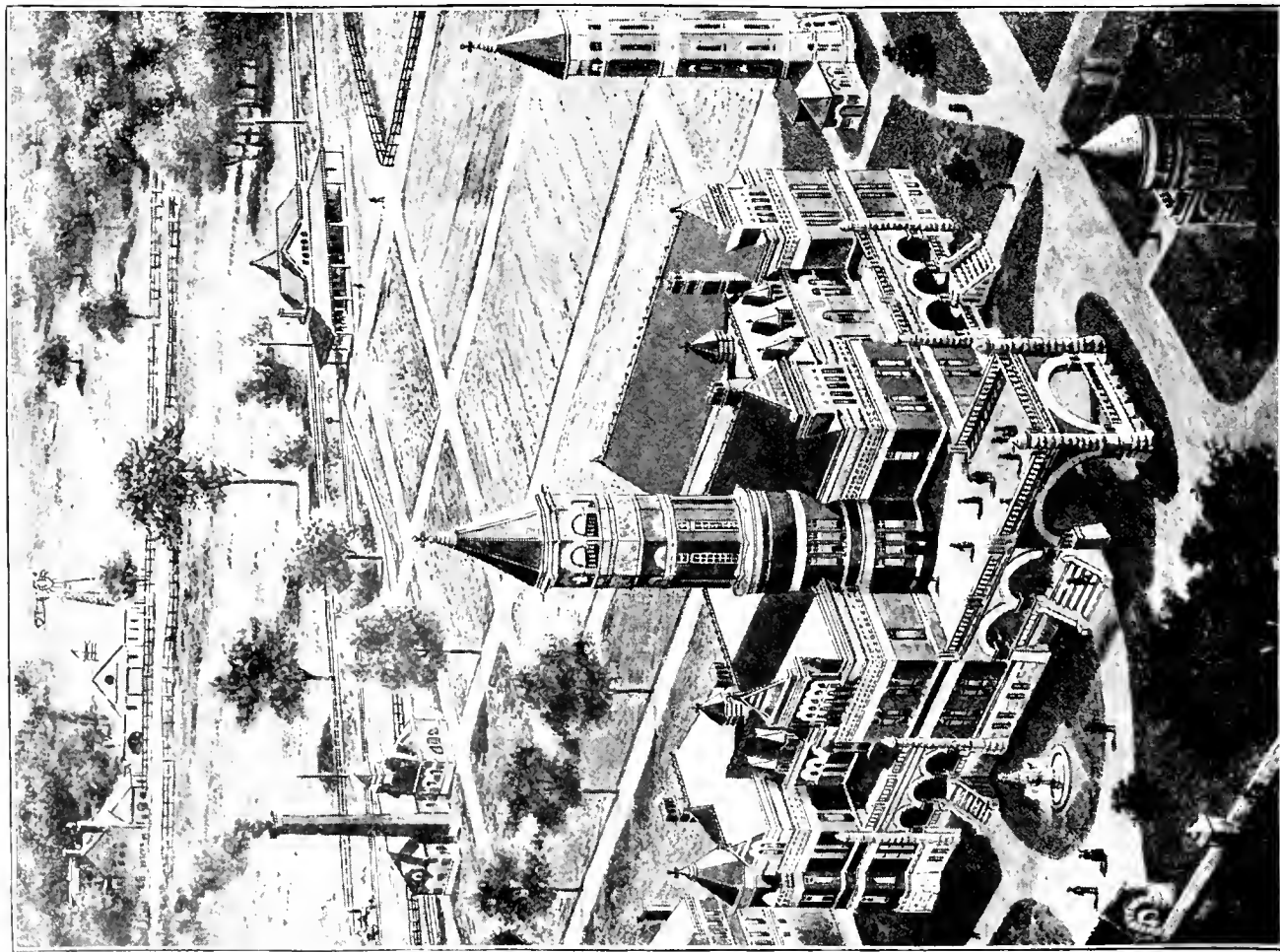


MICHIGAN SOLDIERS' HOME GRAND RIVER BOULEVARD - DESIGNED BY THE STATE

ROSS WILCOX, N. Y.



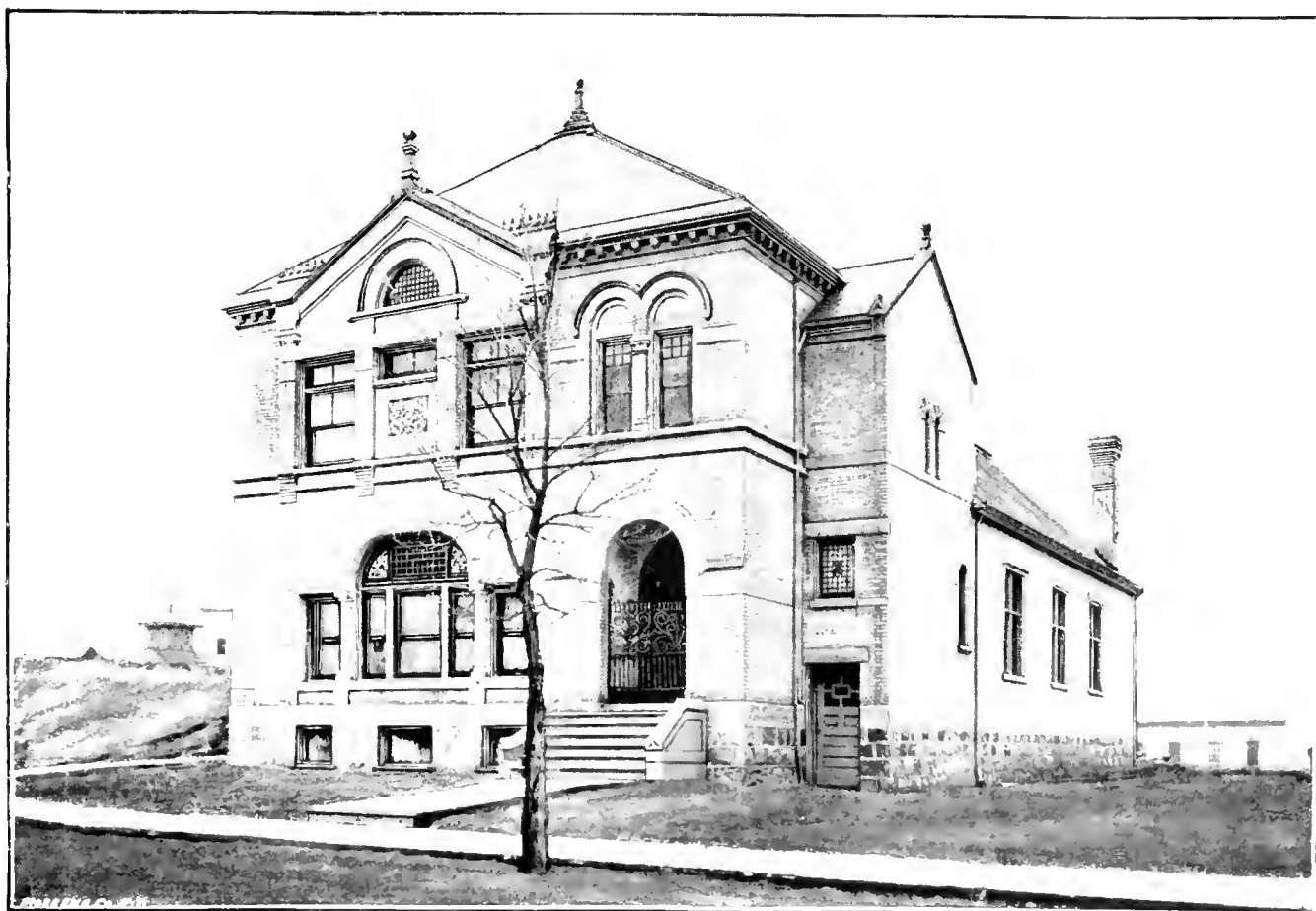
GRAND OPERA HOUSE



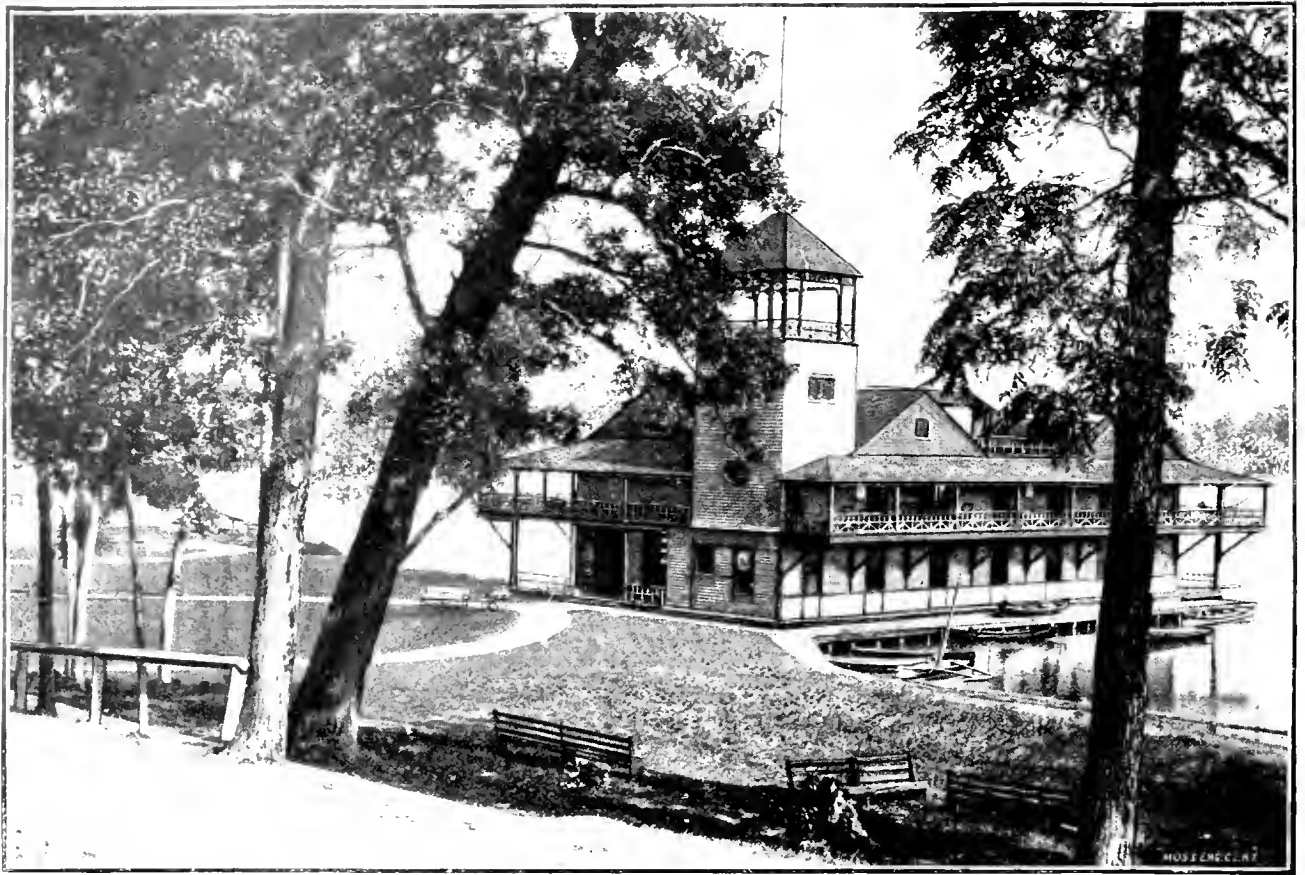
MICHIGAN MASONIC HOME ASSOCIATION BUILDINGS REEDS LAKE BOULEVARD



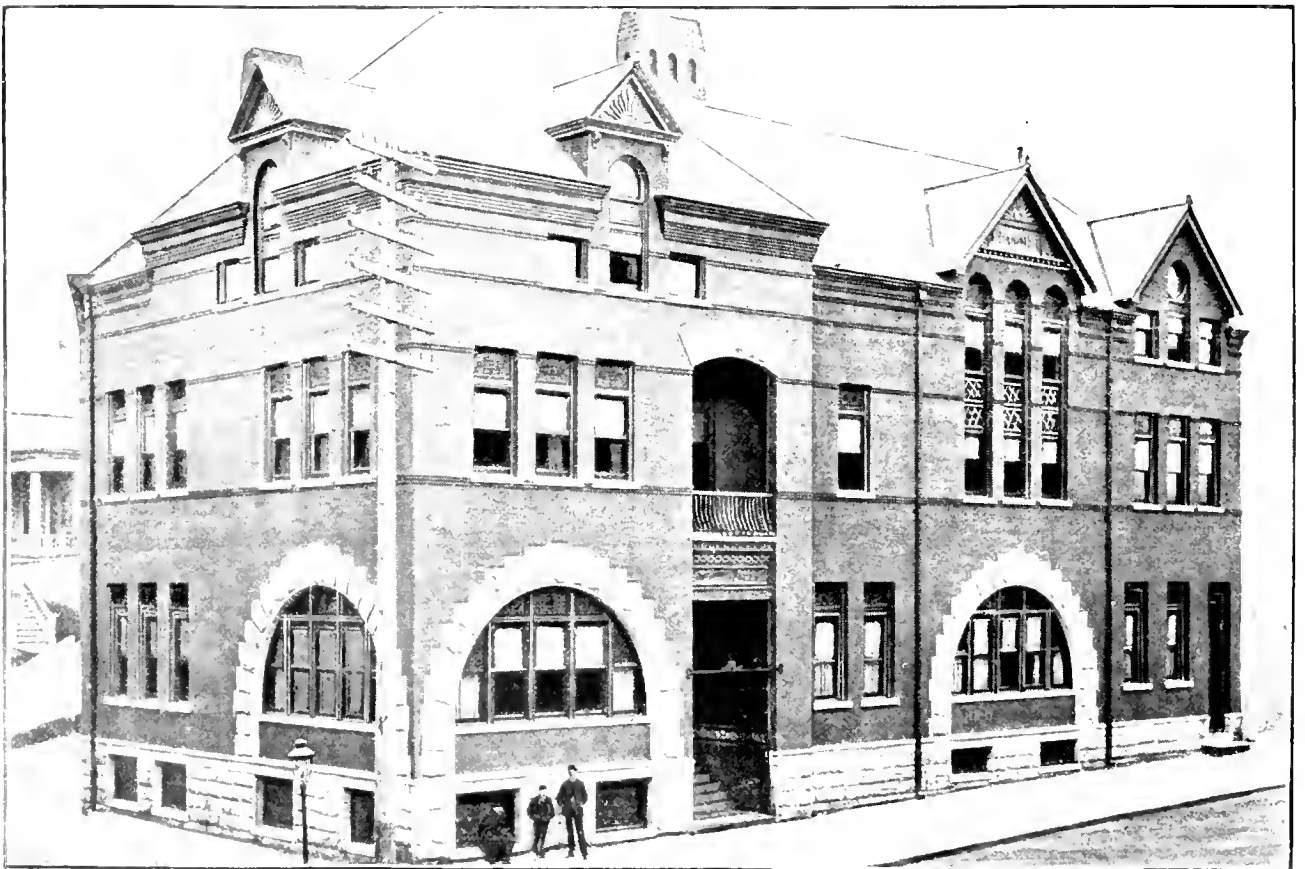
UNION BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION HOME LYON STREET AND COLLEGE AVENUE.



LADIES LIBRARY CLUB HOUSE.



OWASHEETAHONG BOAT CLUB HOUSE REED'S LAKE, SUBURBS OF GRAND RAPIDS.



PENINSULAR CLUB HOUSE

VALUATION ^{and} TAXATION.

A Point from which Grand Rapids Must Prove Attractive to Investors.

GOOD schools are expensive, that is, it requires money to maintain them, and as there are no better public schools in the world than those at Grand Rapids, it must be expected that the school tax will be an important factor in the tax rolls. It is the largest item in the municipal budget, but it is paid without protest or grumbling by all, even speculators apparently recognizing the fact that it is a good investment, because excellent facilities for educating the growing generations greatly enhance the value of property of all kinds. For the fiscal year 1887-8 the total rate of city taxation on the assessed valuation was .0214, of which .0083, or a little more than three eighths, was school tax. This reckoning includes what is known as the mill tax—1 mill on each dollar of valuation—with the budget presented by the Board of Education. This was a little higher than the average for the past five years, as will be seen by examining the statement given below:

YEAR.	ASSESSED VALUATION.	CITY TAX.	RATE CITY TAX.	SCHOOL TAX.	RATE SCHOOL TAX.	TOTAL RATE PER CENT.
1883	\$19,054,012	\$227,526	.0111	\$126,540	.0066	1.77-100
1884	19,713,640	229,369	.0115	131,840	.00665	1.71-10
1885	19,993,841	307,335	.015	120,000	.006	2.1-100
1886	20,328,113	228,144	.0112	113,100	.005	1.82-100
1887	20,800,477	283,030	.0131	171,110	.008	2.11-1000

The extraordinarily high rate of taxation for 1885 was due to the fact the budget included something over \$64,000 for the bridge fund, two new iron bridges and a part of another being built that year. There was also in the budget for 1885—6,000 to pay for the site of the City Hall. As the city is now well supplied with bridges, having four of iron, as good as new, and one wooden one in good condition, such items will not appear in the budget again for many years.

The cause of the unusual high rate for 1887 will be learned from the budget for that year given below.

ASSESSED VS. REAL VALUATION.

As will be seen, the reckoning above is made on the assessed valuation. Perhaps a statement based on the real value of property will be more satisfactory to persons contemplating investments in the city. The result of investigation in this line, the transfers referred to having occurred since the first of August, 1887, is given as follows:

A piece of business property, a block on Pearl street near the business center of the city, which sold for \$42,000, paid: city tax, \$328.80; school tax, \$204; state tax, \$60; county tax, \$50.16. Total, \$642.06, or 1½ per cent.

Another parcel of business property, practically vacant, located within a block of Campau Place, was sold in November last for \$42,500. The taxes for 1887 were: city, \$342.50; school, \$212.50; state, \$62.50; county, \$52.25. Total, \$669.75, or 1.57-100 per cent.

A piece of residence property, sold for \$8,500, paid: city tax, \$49.72; school, \$30.20; state, \$6.20; county, \$7.71. Total, \$93.83, or a little less than 1.15-100 per cent. Another, sold for \$6,000, paid total taxes \$70.62, or 1.17-100 per cent. Another was sold for \$4,000 and taxed \$43.42, or a fraction over 1 per cent.

Four vacant lots near the eastern city limits were sold together for \$2,100. They were taxed \$25.28—1¼ per cent. Two lots in the northern

part of the city sold for \$900 were taxed \$12.20—1¼ per cent. A vacant lot, favorably situated on the West Side, which sold for \$1,850, was taxed \$25.48—1.38-100 per cent.

A site for a factory which was turned in at \$18,000 in the organization of a stock company, was taxed \$190.80—1.6-100 per cent.

Seven vacant lots in the outskirts of the Fourth Ward sold for \$1,330, spot cash, last fall. The taxes for 1887 were \$20.02—1½ per cent.

It will be observed that the figures, based on actual sales, include State and county taxes—total taxation—for a year when the rate of taxation was unusually high—higher, probably, than it will be for many years to come.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES.

The city budget for 1887 was composed of the following items:

City Hall interest fund	\$ 5,896.45
City Hall furnishing fund	11,000.00
Water Works interest fund	30,500.00
General fund	34,000.00
Poor fund	22,000.00
Lamp fund	32,000.00
Fire Department estimate Board Fire and Police Commissioners fund	55,849.93
Police Department estimate Board Fire and Police Commissioners fund	53,653.68
Superior Court fund	1,500.00
Park fund	3,500.00
First District sewer fund	1,500.00
Second District sewer fund	500.00
Highway fund	15,000.00
For engine house, Sixth Ward	5,000.00
For the purchase of a lot for engine house in Third Ward	2,500.00
For construction of piers and bridges over East Side Canal at Bridge street, as per contract	8,600.00
Total	\$293,000.06

In presenting the budget to the Council the Committee on Ways and Means said: "The substantial increase in the amount necessary to be raised by taxation for the ensuing year can be accounted for partially in consequence of the change in the liquor law, which cut off the revenue of the city in this direction one-half, which made it necessary to add \$25,000 to the usual amount raised for the general fund; this, united with the prodigious growth of our city calling for a corresponding increase in expense, will, to a great extent, account for the seemingly large advance in the budget this year."

THE SCHOOL BUDGET.

The school taxes for 1887 were appropriated as follows:

Teachers' salaries	\$ 75,000
Janitors' wages	13,500
Bonds maturing	10,000
Interest on bonds	9,520
Fuel	8,000
Purchase of school house sites	5,000
Grading and sewers	4,000
Improvement of grounds	1,800
School furniture	3,500
Heating apparatus	2,000
Contingent fund	8,000
Repairs	3,000
Salary Superintendent of Construction	1,000
Secretary's salary	600
Insurance	150
Gilbert fund	140
Printing and advertising	500
Library and board for furniture and moving library	5,000
Library expenses	3,000
Total	\$152,920

The difference in the amount of the school budget and the total school taxes for 1887, shown in the schedule above, is accounted for by the fact that the 1-mill tax is included in the tabulated statement.

In presenting this estimate to the people for ratification the Committee on Ways and Means of the Board of Education said: "We have carefully considered the causes which have led to this increase in expenditures for educational purposes, and by comparing the present needs of the board with last year's expenditures, we find a large increase in the number of pupils, which made it necessary to add seventeen rooms to past facilities in order to meet this substantial increase in the average attendance, increasing the number of rooms necessarily increasing the number of teachers employed, which items, added to a large deficit on last year's business, accounts for the amount asked for in advance of last year.

SALARIES OF CITY OFFICERS.

Under charter provision the salary of the Mayor is fixed by the Common Council at not to exceed \$1,200 per year. At present it is fixed at \$750.

The City Clerk gets \$1,000 per year and fees, and is allowed such assistant clerk hire as the Council may deem necessary. The salary of the deputy clerk is \$750.

The Comptroller is allowed \$1,200 per year, with a small amount of assistance when absolutely necessary.

The Treasurer's salary is \$2,500, and his deputy receives \$1,200. No fees or other emoluments.

The Marshal draws \$1,200 per year and his deputy is paid by the day, his wages averaging about \$740 per year. The Marshal is also allowed \$12 per week as clerk hire.

The salary of the City Attorney is \$2,500, with an assistant at \$750.

The salary of the Judge of the Superior Court (\$2,500) is paid by the State, the city paying the Clerk \$1,000 per year and the messenger \$312 per year.

The Director of the Poor receives \$1,000 per annum, and the keeper of the city supply store \$750.

The Health Officer receives \$1,500; the City Physician the same amount, and the Secretary of the Board of Health \$750.

Members of the Board of Review and Equalization, three of them, are paid \$3 per day for time actually spent in the discharge of their duties. They are required to make oath to the correctness of their claim when presented to the Comptroller.

The Judge of Police Court draws a salary of \$1,500, and the Clerk of the same court \$1,000. All other officials connected with the Police Department are paid from the department fund.

The members of the Board of Public Works receive \$3 per day while in the active discharge of their duties. Their clerk is paid \$1,200 per year.

The City Surveyor and his assistants cost the city about \$4,000 per year.

Members of the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners and of the Board of Education receive no compensation.

WARD OFFICERS.

The Aldermen, two for each ward, draw a salary of \$200 per year, paid from the general fund, and receive extra compensation for acting as Inspectors of Election and as members of the Boards of Registration.

The Supervisors, one for each ward, are paid \$2 per day for the time actually spent in the discharge of their duties.

The Ward Collectors draw \$2 per day from the first Monday in December until January 10, and get a percentage on collections made after that latter date.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

A BALANCE SHEET WHICH SHOWS GRAND RAPIDS IS SOLID FINANCIALLY.

The indebtedness of the city amounts to nearly \$750,000. It consists of \$382,000 in water bonds bearing interest at 8 per cent., due in 1893 and 1895. Two hundred thousand dollars in school building bonds, all bearing \$28,000 of which bear interest at 4 and 5 per cent. The first installment, \$4,000—becomes due June 1, 1888, and the money to meet it is in the treasury. The balance of the school bonds become due, a part in each year, except 1906, until 1907, the largest installments, \$21,000 each, maturing in 1905 and 1907. The City Hall bonds, \$150,000, interest at 5 per cent., are due in 1904. Total bonded indebtedness \$732,000, to which may be added a few thousand dollars borrowed for furnishing the City Hall, etc., to be paid in the fall of 1888.

ASSETS.

To account for its indebtedness the city can show its system of water works, which can be sold for \$500,000 whenever the citizens vote to do so; school property estimated by the Board of Education at a cash value of \$650,000; engine houses and other Fire Department property reported by the Board of Police and Fire Commissioners as worth, at a fair cash valuation, \$121,000; the bridges worth, with the approaches and canal bridges, \$205,000; parks which would sell quickly for \$100,000; city hospital just completed at a cost, including the five-acre lot, of \$6,600; the City Hall, also just completed, at a cost of \$310,000, including site; and the equipment of the Police Department, including the electric signal system, etc., \$9,600. Total \$1,902,100. Less the liabilities, not over \$750,000, this leaves the city's net assets \$1,252,100.

RENT.

The rooms occupied by the city offices and Superior Court are rented at an expense of \$2,400 per year; also the rooms occupied by the Board of Public Works, City Surveyor, etc., at \$1,500; also Public Library and Board of Education rooms, \$1,200, and the quarters occupied by the Police Department at \$1,300 per year. Except the latter item the rent account will be closed when the City Hall is ready for occupancy.

POSTAL STATISTICS.

The total receipts of the Grand Rapids Postoffice for 1887 were \$92,692.23; expenses, \$34,343.67. Net revenue, \$58,348.56. Twenty-two carriers are employed, and during 1887 the aggregate number of pieces handled was 10,511,612. Mail letters collected, 2,462,230; mail letters delivered, 3,804,080. The money-order business amounted in 1887 to \$545,575.23, of which \$149,204.98 was received for orders issued, and \$393,370.25 was paid out on orders received. Notwithstanding the reduction in the rate and the increase in the weight carried by a single stamp, the net revenue from the Postoffice has been doubled since 1877.

AS A NEWS CENTER.

The Press—Vast Range Covered by the Numerous Publications—The Telegraph and Telephone Service.

NOT alone to the natural resources or the indomitable energy of its citizens does Grand Rapids owe its present flourishing condition. In a large degree its newspapers are entitled to the credit. During the years Grand Rapids has been steadily pushing its way to a front place among the business centers of the great Northwest the press has maintained an unceasing advocacy of its best interests and advantages.

If the intellectual and moral condition of the inhabitants of Grand Rapids is to be adjudged by the facility of gathering and promulgating news, then certainly no city of the same population, and few even larger, can boast of a higher plane. There are in this city published and circulated no less than thirty-two journals of various kinds, and of these 4 are daily, 17 weekly, 1 semi-weekly and 10 monthly. English, German, Holland and Skandinavian are the languages in which they are published. To publish so large a number of papers requires the labors of over 300 persons, and the daily papers alone furnish an average of seventy-five columns of reading matter per day. The two greatest news collecting bureaus in the world, Associated and United Press, supply the foreign reports each day. The weeklies, semi-weeklies and monthlies cover nearly every branch of current literature. News, science, politics, religion, trade, manufacturing, building, real estate and fiction are subjects which these periodicals handle, in some instances exclusively, in all collectively.

The evolution of the newspapers of Grand Rapids has been positive and decidedly characteristic of the many investments in which her citizens are actively enlisted.

To meet the requirements of so progressive a community necessitates the employing of the quickest methods of transacting business. The telegraph and telephone form an indispensable part of every business man's daily life. No city of equal size offers better and greater facilities for the rapid transmission of messages than Grand Rapids. Three telegraph services, Western Union, Michigan Postal, and Grand Rapids and Indiana, connect this city with every point in the civilized world. The number of words sent from here in 1887 by the Western Union was 125,000; received here, 124,000; number of words in press report sent 110,000, and received 2,250,000. During the same year the Michigan Postal Company sent 15,335 and received 14,727 messages. The words received by the press on this line for the same time was 16,000.

The growth of the telephone service since its organization in 1879 is something prodigious. There are now 625 miles of telephone wire stretched in this city connecting with the central office, 1,042 telephones and 100 towns and cities in the surrounding country. The annual report of the telephone company throughout the United States is accountable for the statement that Grand Rapids has the greatest number of telephones in active use of any city in the world of the same population. The average is a telephone to ever 70 persons. In 1886 the increase over the preceding year of telephones in use was 15 per cent., and in 1887, 18 per cent., and for the first two months in 1888 over 60 telephones were put in for new subscribers. This one fact serves to demonstrate that Grand Rapids is not retrogressive, but decidedly and eminently progressive.



Building Statistics.

The Visible Marks of Grand Rapids Steady Growth—The Structural Beauty of the City.

THE character of any city, and the history of its growth, can be determined by a consideration of its buildings. They are to the municipality what the face is to the man, and in them can be traced the steps from the earliest period of communal growth up to present, and give undisputed evidence as to whether the growth has been through adolescence to a vigorous present, or, failing of the high purposes of early days, only the past presents anything of worth.

ALWAYS PROGRESSIVE

Grand Rapids shows an unbroken record of progress. Turn the pages of her building history and only progress can be noted. Study the present structures, and, though the representations of the earliest periods are scarce, the classes of buildings which mark historical epochs can be still found. The building of the early settler, still solid and substantial, fit emblem of the sturdy integrity of the men who founded with faith that the future

would fill out their foundation to the city they could even then see. Then comes relics of the village period—good, substantial stores and houses, mostly having experienced the effects of growth in being relegated to the suburbs to make way for younger, larger and handsomer structures for business purposes. The early city days are marked, in an architectural sense, by the results of the idea which declared four stories in height and a plate glass store front the proper thing in business blocks.

THE BUILDINGS OF THE PRESENT.

The last period, the period of to-day, and which was ushered in when the city became really metropolitan, breaking the former bounds which confined business structures, aside from factories, to a few streets, is marked by the rising of such edifices as are worthy to be the business blocks, warehouses and factories of a great commercial and industrial center, such as only great cities can either utilize or pay for. The growth is as solid, as great, and the material used has kept pace with other things, so that permanency and

security from destructive conflagrations has been established as far as human foresight can provide, while the designs of the best architectural talent has been used to add to the attractiveness of the work.

THE DEMAND FOR BUILDINGS.

The growth, which has given Grand Rapids at the present time 4,000 business buildings and 12,000 residences, has been steady. The demand has been always, if anything, slightly in advance of construction, so that, while adding about 1,000 structures each year for the past few years, there has never been an excess over the wants of the expanding population of the city.

A GUARANTEE OF STABILITY.

The best guarantee of stability is found in the condition of residence property. A house and lot not only comprises a home, but is usually a savings bank as well. Here are invested a man's savings, invested because he has confidence, not only in present values, but firm faith in the future. In this respect, Grand Rapids is thoroughly endorsed; her houses are one of her chief glories. The taste and prosperity of her inhabitants are evidenced in the beautiful cottages and more ambitious residences scattered all over the corporation.

NO FAVORED LOCALITY.

To no one favored locality is confined the handsome residence buildings. There are no streets made the special show place to impress strangers. East, west, north and south can be found houses which speak volumes for the general prosperity of the people. While magnificent residences, fit for the

dwellings of commercial princes, are plentiful, the middle class houses, those endorsements of the solvency, integrity and push of the people of the Valley City, greatly outnumber them, and, with the magnificent public buildings, churches, school houses and the humbler homes owned by the laboring classes hostages to the future.

CONCLUSIVE FIGURES.

In 1887, the growth in building, save that the cost was greater, was but a repetition as to number of structures of the record of years just passed. During the year, 993 buildings were erected and covered almost every class of structures known to cities. The \$1,127,840 spent for residences was scattered through every ward. The following is a brief statement of the building statistics for the year:

CLASS	NEW AND RECONSTRUCTED.
Stores, etc.,	\$624,050
Public Buildings	436,000
Factories, etc.	279,100
Churches and Hospitals	68,000
Residences, etc.	1,127,840
Total,	\$2,534,990

An analysis of the figures given will surprise even residents of the city, so quietly has the work gone on, and must convince those seeking a location of the advantages of this city as a point of settlement. The tide of prosperity is settling this way, and the fortunate ones, taking advantage of it, will float on to fortune.

Public Buildings.



THE growth of Grand Rapids in material wealth and the city's prosperity is illustrated more plainly in nothing than in the number and character of her public buildings, already completed, in process of erection or contemplated. These public structures are substantial and imposing; many of them being conspicuous for their superior architectural design, and the completeness of their appointments. Among the more prominent of these is the United States building. It is located near the geographical center of the city and occupies the block bounded by Lyon, North Division, Pearl and North Ionia streets. Its architectural design is in keeping with this class of government work throughout the country. The entire lower floor is occupied by the Postoffice, the second floor by the offices of the government officials stationed here, including the Collector of Internal Revenue, the United States Marshal and the United States District Attorney. The upper floor is occupied by the court and jury rooms of the United States District and Circuit Courts for the Western Michigan District. The grounds surrounding the building are well kept and are worth considerable more than the building itself.

The City Hall, by far the handsomest structure in the city, is located upon the south half of the block bounded by Crescent avenue, North Ionia, Lyon and Ottawa streets, and faces Lyon street. Its ground dimensions are 100x60 feet, and the building consists of four stories and a high basement, with a tower at the Lyon-Ottawa street corner 140 feet high. It is solidly constructed, its outer walls being of stone, roughly cut, and the whole structure being fire-proof, wood entering alone into the floors, finishing and inside frame work. In the structure apartments are provided for every branch of municipal business, and there are also large rooms set apart for the city's extensive public library, the city's higher court and a Common Council chamber. The building is heated by steam, ample elevator service is supplied, vaults and safes for the preservation of valuable papers and documents are provided in the principal offices, and every modern convenience is at hand, the whole making a structure as nearly perfect as possible

and the finest of its kind in Michigan. It cost the city, ready for occupancy, \$310,000.

A large and handsome building site has recently been secured upon Crescent avenue, extending from Kent to Ottawa streets, for a county building, and a handsome structure, to cost \$150,000, will soon be erected thereon, affording a home for the county courts and officers commensurate with the dignity of Kent County. The present county building, at the corner of Lyon and Kent streets, is not worthy of any special notice.

The County Jail is located upon the corner of Campau and Louis streets. It is solidly constructed of brick and stone and cost the county about \$60,000.

There are upon the business thoroughfares a large number of buildings, generally classed as public structures, that are beautiful in design, massive in appearance and of large proportions. Many of this class are five and even six stories high, and they are generally supplied with elevators and modern conveniences of such structures built for general public uses in the most metropolitan cities.

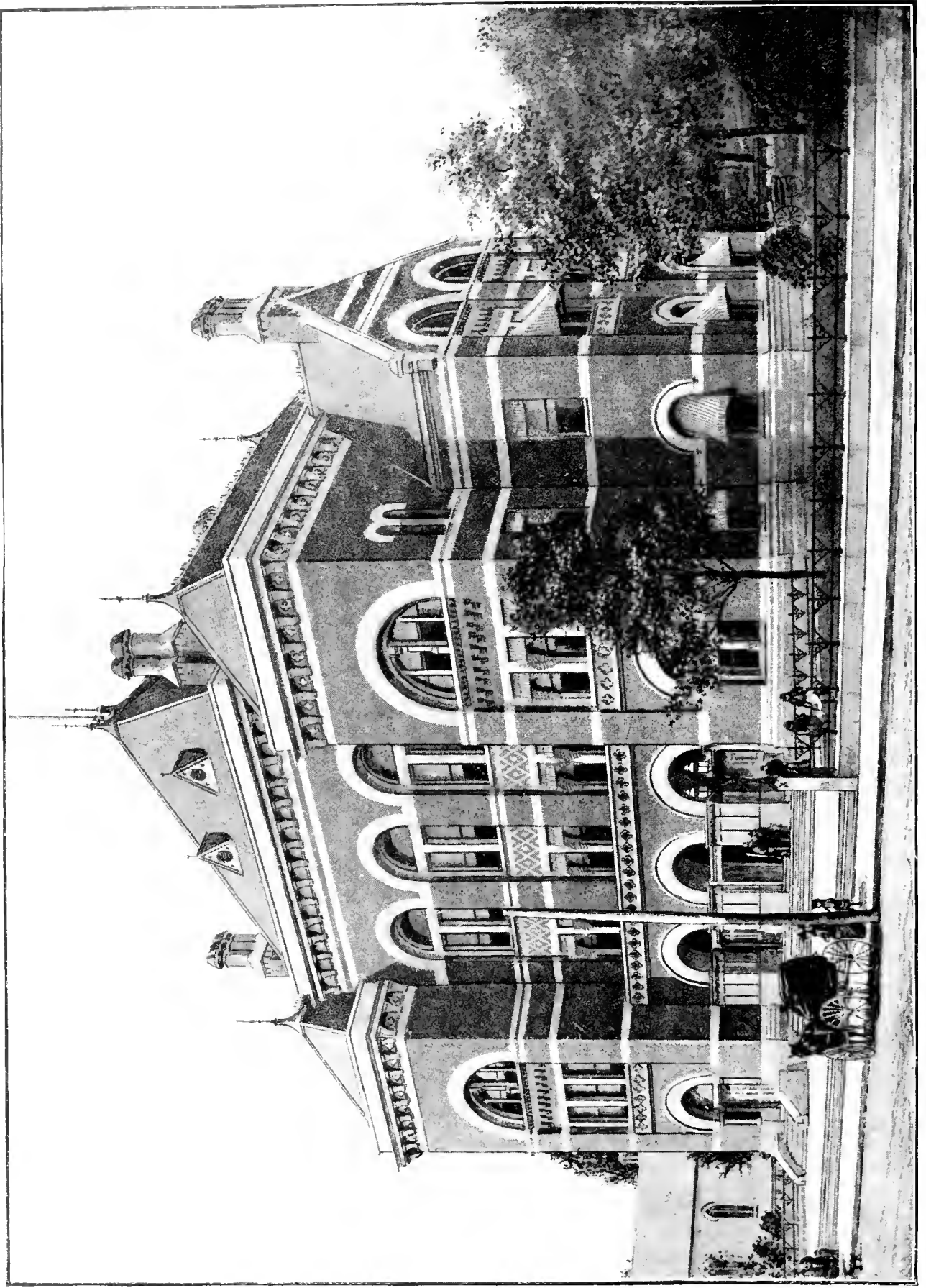
CLUB HOUSES.

That Grand Rapids is eminently a social city is manifest, even to the stranger, by the number and character of her social club houses. These club buildings, in general appointments, cost, elegance and management, are surpassed nowhere in the Northwest. The Peninsular Club occupies a large, beautiful and central club house at the corner of Ottawa and Fountain streets, near Monroe. The building is of red pressed brick and cut sandstone and is a model in architectural design and the builder's art, both outside and in. The building, with its furnishings, cost \$50,000.

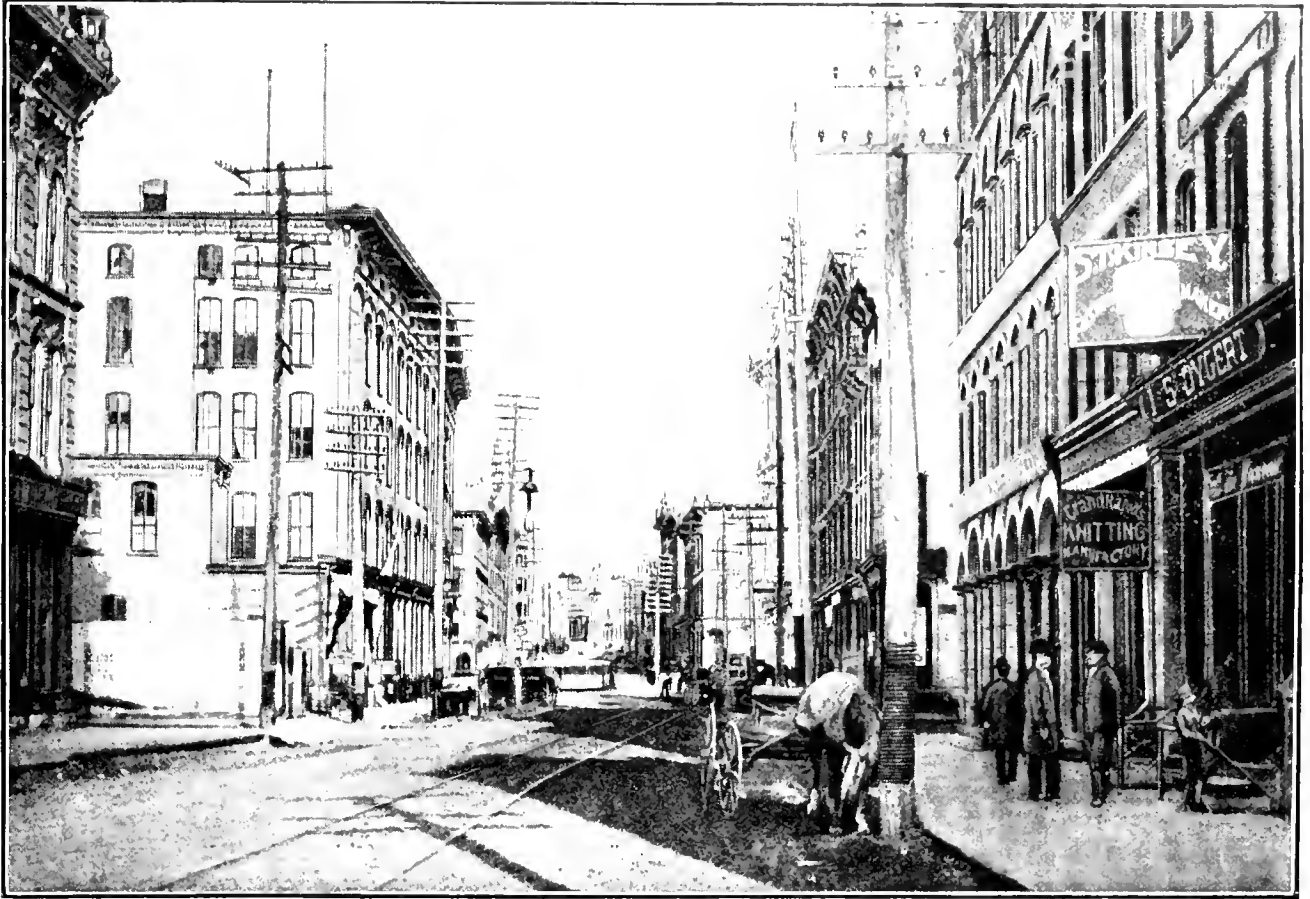
The O-Wash-ta-Nong Boat Club, universally regarded as one of the most successful and best equipped clubs of the kind in the whole country, occupies palatial quarters in the Barnhart building on Ionia street, corner of Louis. The club also owns and maintains a handsome boat house upon the banks of Reed's Lake, the city's popular summer resort. The boat house,



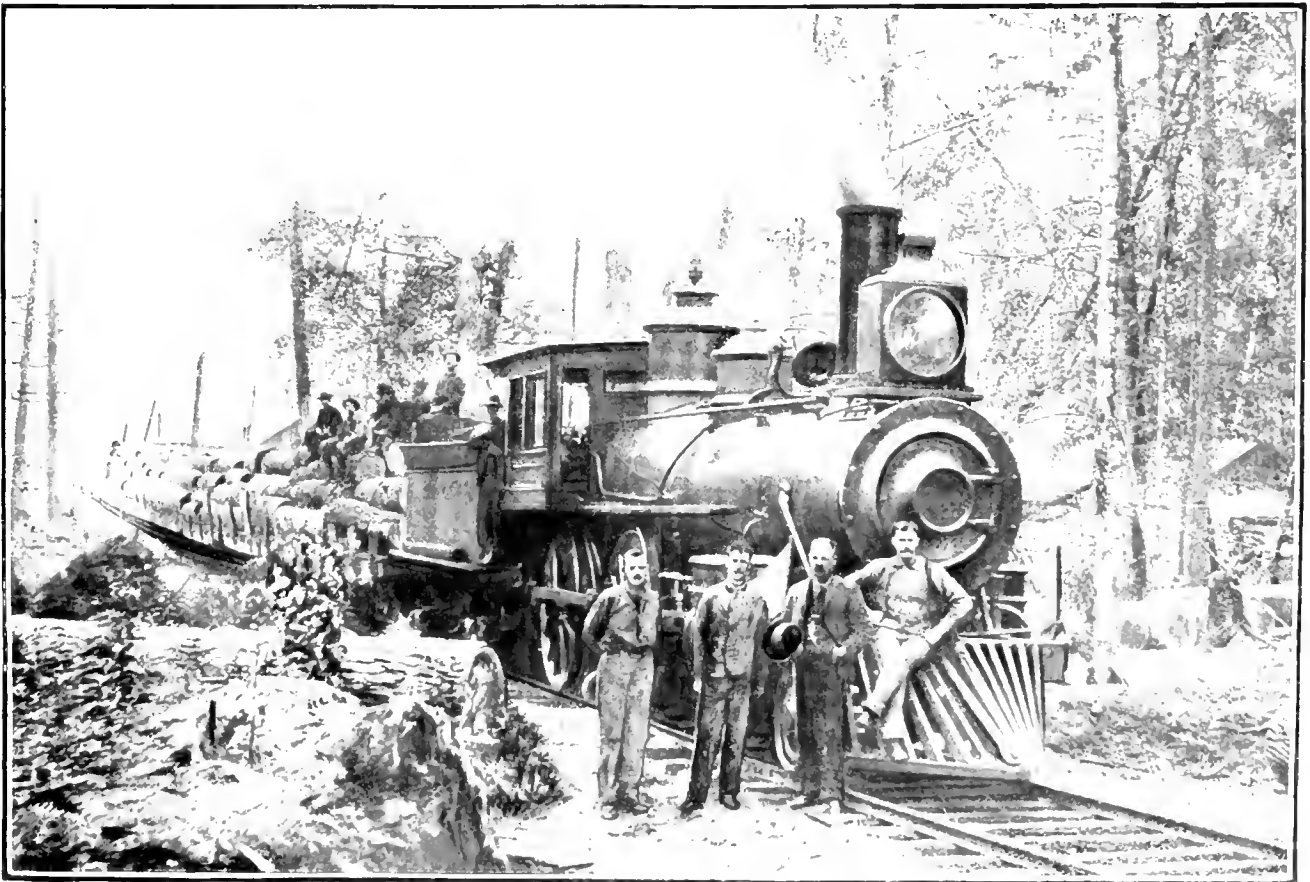
CITY HALL.



GOVERNMENT BUILDING.



PEARL STREET



In the Pine Woods of Michigan. A Logging Train on the Grand Rapids and Lake Michigan Railway.



MONROE STREET.



CANAL STREET.

which is also fitted up as a club house, overlooks the rowing course of the Northwestern Amateur Rowing Association, which has decided to hold its annual meetings here for five consecutive years. The real and personal property held by the club is valued at over \$30,000.

The Ladies' Literary Club owns a handsome club house, constructed of brick and stone, upon Sheldon street, near Island. The building embraces assembly parlors, library, auditorium, etc., and cost over \$15,000.

Nearly every nationality represented in the city's population is also represented by a club building, where the members, their wives, families and friends assemble for social pleasures. Among these are the club buildings of the Arbeiter Verein, on Jefferson street, costing \$20,000; the Turn Verein, also on Jefferson street, costing \$7,000; the Germania, costing \$0,000; the Casino, costing \$0,000; Holland Society's Hall, \$6,000; Polish, Danish and Scandinavian halls, costing from \$2,500 to \$5,000.

There are also a large number of clubs, organized purely for social purposes, that occupy apartments of no mean or insignificant proportions in public and private blocks of the city.

THE THEATRES.

The city is well provided with public places of amusement and the very best operatic and dramatic attractions appear in them.

Powers' Grand Opera House, one of Michigan's finest theatre buildings, is centrally located in the Powers building upon Pearl street. The theatre has a seating capacity of 1,500, is heated by steam, lighted by both gas and electricity, and possesses all the modern improvements found in buildings of this nature.

Redmond's Grand Opera House is located on Canal street, near East Bridge, and is a handsome and modern play house with a seating capacity of 1,200. The building, with the theatre furnishings, cost upwards of \$100,000.

Smith's Opera House is located at the corner of Waterloo and Louis streets, is a model vaudeville playhouse and cost \$40,000.

The Wonderland Theatre is on Canal street, about midway between Huron and Erie streets, and is a handsome and cozy amusement structure.

There are a large number of public halls, located in various parts of the city, that are constructed and well adapted for the presentation of theatricals, operas, concerts, lectures and public entertainments generally.



Municipal Improvements.

The Condition of the Public Streets of the City—The Sewerage and Water Works Systems.

GOOD streets to drive over, good sewerage to carry off the drainage of the city, and facilities for water supply are great desiderata in the eyes of the intending settlers. In all these respects, Grand Rapids makes an excellent showing.

STREETS.

The total mileage of streets in the city is 143.012, of which there were on January 1, 1888:

	MILES.
Graded and paved with wood and stone	6.114
Graded and paved with wood	1.388
Graded and paved with stone	1.178
Graded, graveled and gutters paved	43.367
Graded and graveled	32.136
Graded	3,000
Unimproved	55.750
Total	143.012

The above statement shows that 60 per cent. of all the streets in the city have been improved in some manner.

The following table shows the amount and cost of work done since the year ending April 30, 1882, to each year to date January 1, 1888:

YEAR ENDING APRIL 30.	MILES OF STREETS IMPROVED.	AMOUNT EXPENDED.	YEAR ENDING APRIL 30.	MILES OF STREETS IMPROVED.	AMOUNT EXPENDED.
1881	1.710	\$22,870.73	1886	3.701	\$40,020.00
1884	5.875	61,718.86	1887	7.250	112,230.00
1885	4.785	72,004.00	1888	7.801	99,574.00

The total length of streets improved during this period is 30.952 miles, at a cost of \$409,040.59.

WATER WORKS.

In the public water works system, there are 28 miles of mains now laid,

which, with the 296 fire hydrants, gives protection to property over an area of more than two square miles, or nearly one-fourth the area of the city. This includes the entire business and manufacturing interests, and covers, also, much of the more valuable of the residence portion of the corporation.

PRIVATE WATER CORPORATION.

The Grand Rapids Hydraulic Company's supply, at present, is from springs. Steps have been taken looking to a supply of water from a point three quarters of a mile north of the city, where a well has been dug. The company's system consists of eight miles of pump logs and six miles of cast iron pipe, the latter laid last season.

SEWERS.

There are 42.009 miles of sewers in the city, as follows:

	MILES.
Brick sewers	17.486
Glazed pipe sewers	22.680
Cement pipe sewers .....	.480
Wood sewers	1.853
Iron pipe in river .....	.160
Total	42.009

The length of sewers constructed each year since the fiscal year, ending April 30, 1882, and the cost thereof, is as follows:

YEAR ENDING APRIL 30.	NO. OF MILES EACH YEAR.	COST EACH YEAR.	YEAR ENDING APRIL 30.	NO. OF MILES EACH YEAR.	COST EACH YEAR.
1883	1.700	\$9,929.70	1887	2.551	\$17,640.00
1884	3.220	28,226.31	JANUARY 1, 1888	3.165	12,638.80
1885	6.114	\$7,376.80			

The total cost for the work in the four years above noted is \$175,076.61 for a length of 17.152 miles of sewers.

LIGHTING THE CITY.

Gas and Electric Lights Furnished by Competing Companies.



THE Grand Rapids Gas Light Company was organized in the year 1857, and began operations with one "bench" of three retorts, and a storage capacity of 25,000 cubic feet—which was much more than was then needed. Additions to the plant were made from time to time as the city grew.

The company some years since purchased six acres of land at the corner of Wealthy and Oakland avenues, on which has recently been erected complete new works. Nothing in the city better illustrates its substantial growth than the fact that such large works had become a necessity. From three retorts and a storage capacity of 25,000 feet in 1857, to one hundred retorts and a storage capacity of half a million feet in thirty years, tells the story of the growth of the city. The company's plant now comprises thirty-five miles of street mains, and the amount of coal used annually is 10,000 tons.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

The Grand Rapids Electric Light and Power Company was organized March 22, 1880, with a capital stock of \$100,000. The company purchased its first dynamo (a sixteen-light Brush) and the requisite lamps and lines in July, 1880, placing the dynamo in the basement of the Wolverine Chair and Furniture Company's factory, the company renting power to propel it. The lights were first exhibited in July, 1880.

At the present time the plant consists of water and steam power combined, to the extent of 525 horse power, and twenty-three dynamos, sufficient to supply 450 arc lamps of 2,000 candle power each, and 1,000 incandescent lamps of sixteen candle power each. At the present time the company is furnishing to its patrons upward of 250 arc and 500 incandescent lights, besides a number of motors furnishing power during the daytime. About forty-five miles of line wire is in use, covering a distance of over fifteen miles of streets. The company is now furnishing for the city 110 street lights, the greater number of which are suspended over the centers of the streets.

The Edison Electric Light Company was organized in 1887, with a capital of \$200,000. Eleven miles of line have already been constructed. The company has now placed under ground 30,000 feet of copper feeders, weighing two pounds to the foot. The present plant starts up with four boilers, each of 110 horse power capacity, three engines with 15x18 cylinders, and six dynamos, capable of feeding 4,000 incandescent lamps simultaneously. The company already have stores, dwellings, hotels, etc., wired to the amount of over 3,000 lamps, and accessions to this number are constantly being made. This is an incandescent plant only, for the supplying of interior lighting and power. The Sprague electric motor will be used, and power will be furnished, from the same wires that supply light, in any amount up to fifty horse power.



Police and Fire Protection.

How the Lives and Property of Citizens are Guarded—The Cost of Maintaining the Police and Fire Departments



BOTH Police and Fire Departments of the city of Grand Rapids are under the control and guidance of a Board of Police and Fire Commissioners, composed of five members, appointed by the Mayor, with and by the consent of the Common Council one every five years. The commissioners hold weekly meetings, at which the affairs of the departments are considered.

THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.

The police department numbers seventy-one officers, men and employees, as follows: One superintendent, two sergeants, two detectives, two court officers, one truant officer, fifty one patrolmen, two patrol-wagon men, three drivers, two clerks, three operators, one janitor and one matron.

There are twenty-seven beats in the city, nine of which are constantly patrolled. The remaining eighteen beats are patrolled from four o'clock P. M. until four o'clock A. M. The patrolmen are divided into three squads, or watches. The day watch patrols from eight A. M. until four P. M.; the dog watch from four to eight P. M., and from four to eight A. M.; and the night watch from eight P. M. to four A. M.

In connection with beats is the patrol box system, one of the finest features of the department. There are thirty-six of these boxes, twenty-eight

of which have telephones. The remaining eight are used to call for help from remote districts not patrolled. The boxes are connected with police headquarters. Twenty-five miles of wire are used in the system. Each patrolman reports to headquarters at each end of his beat, and the exact hour is there recorded by an operator. These reports are carefully saved, and bound so that in after years a person can tell, by referring to the records, where an officer was at a certain hour on a given date. If a patrolman wishes help or the wagon, or instructions, he asks for it, and many times receives instructions from the sergeant in charge of the station through the same channel. If a patrolman fails to report in a reasonable length of time after he should do so, another officer is detailed to look him up and ascertain the cause of the difficulty. In connection with the system is a two-horse wagon, with a man constantly in charge. The wagon attends all alarms from the patrol boxes and many calls by private telephone. It also attends all fires, in order to give necessary police protection. There is also a one-horse wagon, on duty during the day only. It is used in carrying prisoners to and from the jail, sending after witnesses for Police Court, and for persons for whom warrants have been issued, returning lost children to their homes, taking sick and disabled persons to the different homes and hospitals, and other like work.

One officer devotes his entire time to seeing that the truant law is enforced, and that the factories do not employ help under the proper age.

The officers are all well drilled in the use of the revolver and club, and are required to spend a portion of their time daily in practice. The entire force is as well drilled as most military companies in the State. The advantage of having a well-drilled, well-disciplined force can readily be seen.

From May 1, 1886, to May 1, 1887, there were 1,472 arrests made by the officers. Of the number, 1,303 were males and 70 were females, and only nine of the entire number could neither read nor write. A comparative statement for the ten months ending March 1, 1888, shows the number of arrests to have been 1,493—a very respectable showing, when it is considered how rapidly the population of the city is increasing; that new State laws and amended city ordinances made many more arrests necessary.

It costs in round numbers \$5,000 per month to maintain this branch of the city's business.

In connection with the force, and under the supervision of the commissioners, is the Grand Rapids Police Relief and Benefit Association, which assists and relieves patrolmen when injured in service or who are disabled by sickness.

THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

This department has eight fine brick engine houses, valued at \$600,000; seven four wheeled modern hose carriages, two chemical engines, four steamers, two hook and ladder trucks, one telegraph wagon, one supply, and 15,000 feet of hose. Forty-four full pay men are employed, and forty-one part pay men. There are thirty-eight horses in the department, employed for its various uses. The full pay men spend their entire time at the engine

houses, excepting when at their meals. The part-pay men sleep at the houses, and during the day are at their places of business, which have gongs connected with the telegraphic alarm system, and in case of an alarm the men respond.

In the fire alarm system there are seventy-five alarm boxes, maintained at city expense. These boxes are conveniently located, so as to give the quickest and most satisfactory results. Fifty miles of wire are used in the system, one large bell in the city hall tower on which the alarms are struck, eleven gongs, six tower bells and twelve telephones.


Something of the effectiveness of the department can be seen by the following figures of losses for the past five and one half years: From September 15, 1882, to September 15, 1883, \$77,581.40; from September 15, 1883, to September 15, 1884, \$101,327.50; from September 15, 1884, to May 1, 1885, \$10,708.10; from May 1, 1885, to May 1, 1886, \$75,747.38; from May 1, 1886, to January 1, 1887, \$26,542; from January 1, 1887, to January 1, 1888, \$254,855, the largest by far since 1875. The loss for 1887 included the destruction of a large five-story furniture factory, containing finishing, storing and sales rooms. This loss amounted to \$100,000. Aside from this one fire, the losses for the year 1887 only amounted to \$64,855. Since this fire, a large Button steamer has been added to the apparatus, making the department much more efficient.

The value of the property in the department will closely approximate \$125,000, and it costs the city about \$5,500 per month to maintain this branch of its business.

As in the case of the police department, there is a benefit association in the fire department for the benefit of sick and disabled firemen.

The Courts.

The Various Branches of the Judiciary Which Belong in Grand Rapids—The Lawyers and Other Professional Men.

 THE various courts, Federal, County and Municipal, located at Grand Rapids, make it the judicial center of Western Michigan.

By act of Congress, 1863, the Western Judicial District of Michigan was established and the sessions of the District Court are held in the Government Building in this city, except certain terms, which are held at Musquette in the Upper Peninsula. The district is included in the Sixth Judicial Circuit, which is allotted to Justice STANLEY MATTHEW, of the Supreme Court. The Circuit Judge is Hon. HOWELL E. JACKSON, of Tennessee.

The terms of both courts commence on the first Tuesday in March and October of each year. All the officers of the United States Courts for the Southern Division reside in Grand Rapids except the Hon. HENRY L. STABLENS, whose home is in Kalamazoo. Judge STABLENS holds court in Grand Rapids on Tuesday of each week.

THE COUNTY COURT.

The County of Kent composes the Seventeenth Judicial Circuit of Michigan and the court practically is in continuous session during the entire year. The business of one term is seldom disposed of before another term begins. There are four terms of court a year commencing on the first Mondays of March, May and December and the third Monday of September. At the beginning of each term it generally takes about two weeks to dispose of the criminal business, after which civil cases are taken

up. There are generally about 200 cases on the calendar for each term, nearly one-third of which are appeals from Justice Courts.

THE SUPERIOR COURT.

The Superior Court of Grand Rapids is a municipal court of original jurisdiction, concurrent with the Circuit Court in civil cases where either or both the parties are residents of the city. The Superior Court has exclusive jurisdiction in all cases where the city or any of its officers is a party, and has exclusive appellate jurisdiction where appeals are made from the Police Court of the city. It also has original and exclusive jurisdiction for the prosecution of all crimes and offenses cognizable by a court of record committed within the corporate limits of the city. The rules and practice of the court are the same as in the Circuit Court of the State. Any case commenced in the Circuit Court which might have been commenced in the Superior Court can be removed to the Superior Court by petition of the defendant on filing a proper bond. Very few cases, however, are thus removed.

THE PROBATE COURT.

The third State court of record in Grand Rapids is the Probate Court of Kent County. This court is held in the Court Block on Lyon street, and is open daily for business. The entire time of the Probate Judge and of the Register is now occupied, and soon more help will be required as the business of the court is largely on the increase. Year by year it becomes more and more necessary that those having business in the court should be repre-

sented by attorney. The amount of business will soon be so large that the Judge can act only judicially, and the routine work must be done by subordinates, while the legal papers for the court will necessarily be drawn by attorneys.

THE POLICE COURT.

The Police Court of Grand Rapids is a municipal court which takes cognizance of violations of the provisions of the city charter and ordinances, and has original jurisdiction over cases of misdemeanor and of a quasi-criminal nature, and has exclusive original jurisdiction in cases of felony committed within the territorial limits of the city. The practice in the Police Court is similar to that of Justice Courts. The Police Court has a Clerk, but is not a court of record. The court meets daily.

There are in the city of Grand Rapids four Justices of the Peace. Each Justice has an office convenient to the business part of the city, and devotes his entire time to his official duties. Every year each Justice has from 600 to 1,000 cases commenced, of which about two-thirds go to judgment. From each Justice Court from fifteen to twenty-five cases are appealed to the higher court each year, and each Justice has on an average from two to eight jury cases a month.

LAWYERS.

There are in Grand Rapids about 140 lawyers and law firms, but not all are engaged in active practice. Many act as insurance, real estate and loan agents, and while doing a profitable business, never appear in court. Quite a number of law firms have a large collection business which very seldom brings them into court, while a few have large business interests and are lawyers only in name.

The Bar Association of Grand Rapids, of which the prominent lawyers of the city are members, is an association organized for the same purposes as such associations are organized elsewhere.

The Law Library of Grand Rapids is an institution recently organized and has very brilliant prospects. It is an incorporated company with a capital of \$20,000. At present the library consists of about 3,500 volumes. It has all the reports of the United States Supreme and Circuit Courts, and soon will have all the State and territorial reports. The library rooms are in the new Houseman Block, opposite the new City Hall, a location convenient and pleasant.

PHYSICIANS.

Physicians and surgeons are well represented in Grand Rapids, both in numbers and professional merit. There are about 140 doctors in active

practice, a few of whom have been practicing in the place since Grand Rapids was a frontier village.

The Grand Rapids Academy of Medicine is an association of the best physicians in the city. It meets once in two weeks for the purpose of discussing matters of interest to the profession. Elaborate papers of literary and scientific merit are often prepared and read at these meetings. Original investigation and research form a large part of the society's work. It is a branch of the American Medical Association and its membership is not confined to the city limits.

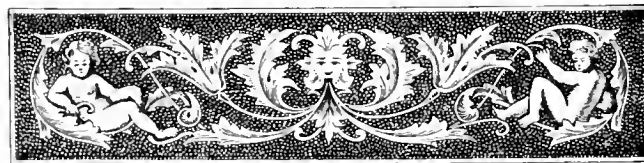
OTHER PROFESSIONAL MEN.

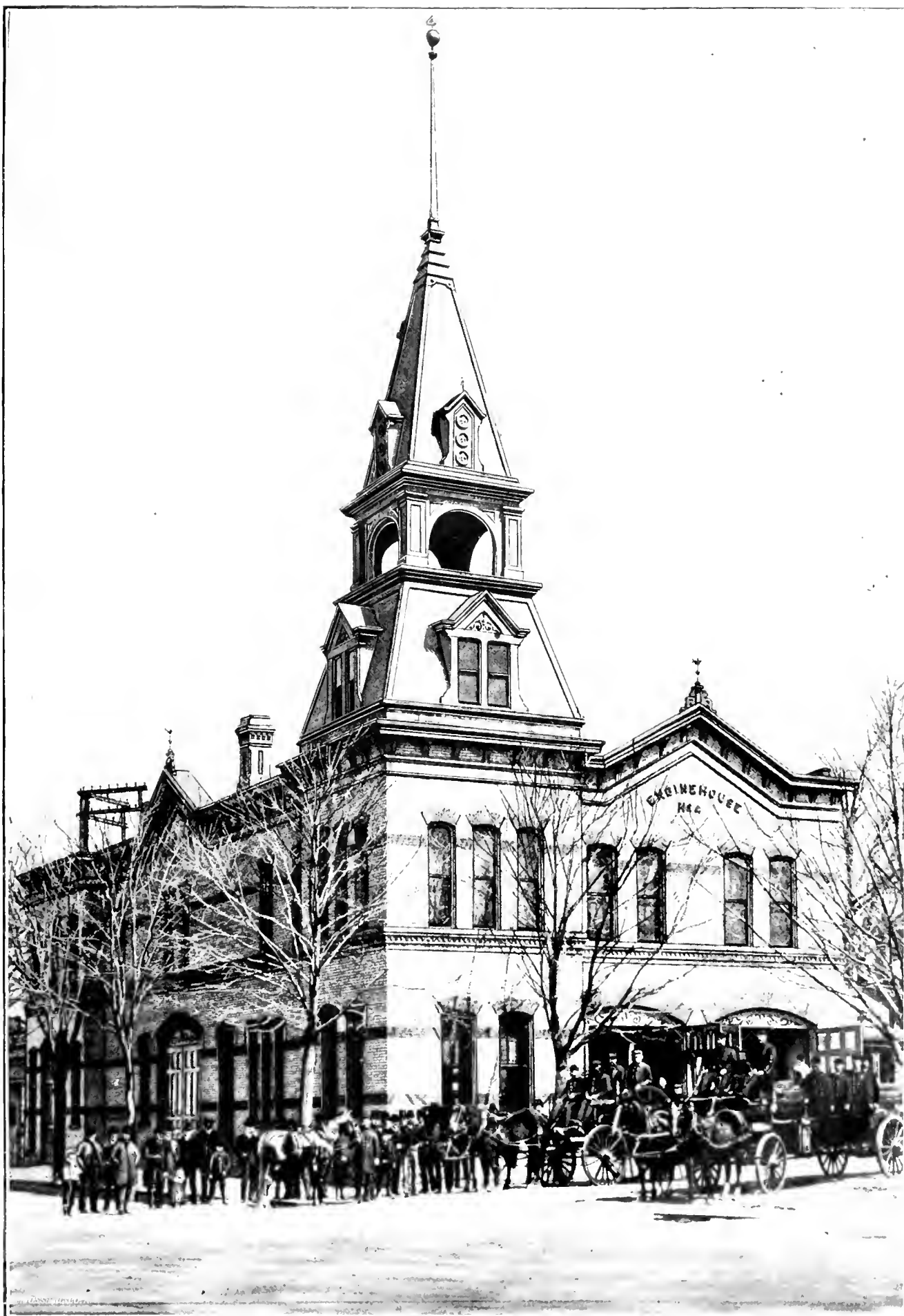
There are about twenty-five dentists in Grand Rapids, nearly all of whom are comparatively young men, although there are three or four veterans who have been in constant practice for more than thirty years. The city dentists have a due proportion of patronage from out of town.

There are in Grand Rapids about 175 registered pharmacists and forty-five drug stores, and the drug business is fairly conducted upon business principles. No commissions are paid to physicians, and no physician is a secret partner in any drug store. The pharmacists have an association called the Grand Rapids Pharmaceutical Circle which meets once a month, and of which every druggist in the city is a member. This association is considered the model association of its kind in the country, and is often referred to by the leading pharmacy journals.

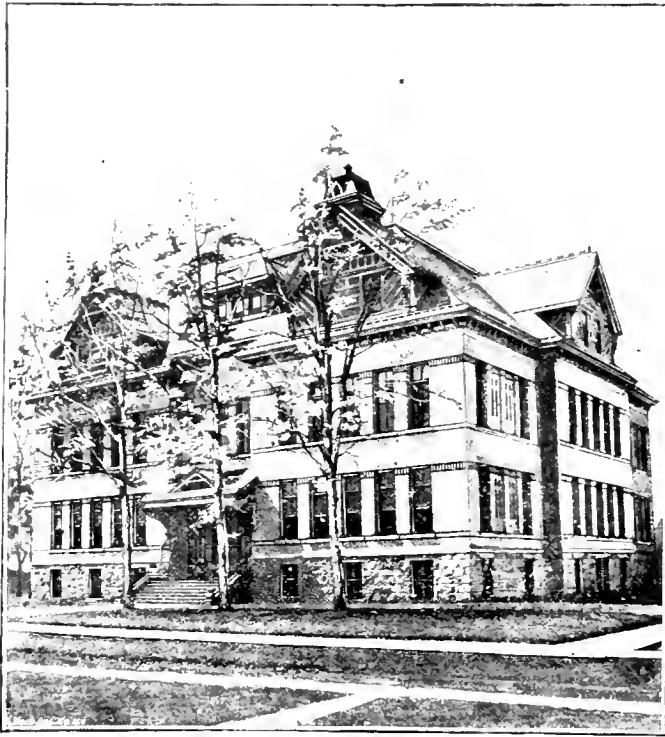
The clergymen of the city number about fifty, and among them the best of fraternal feeling exists. The majority of them are young, energetic men, who have been carefully educated for their work, and nearly all are college graduates. The Pastors Conference of Grand Rapids is an organization to which only evangelical ministers are admitted. It numbers about twenty-five members, and holds its meetings every Monday afternoon at the Young Men's Christian Association parlors. Practical topics and questions of public interest are discussed, new books are reviewed, and the state of Christian work in the city is considered.

There are in the city three architects who each employ from two to a half-dozen assistants. The work of one office, which makes a specialty of cottages and residences, is almost wholly foreign; the work of another is almost wholly local; while the third office has work both at home and abroad. The amount of work ranges from \$600,000 to \$800,000 a year to each office, and each office produces annually from one to two hundred designs.

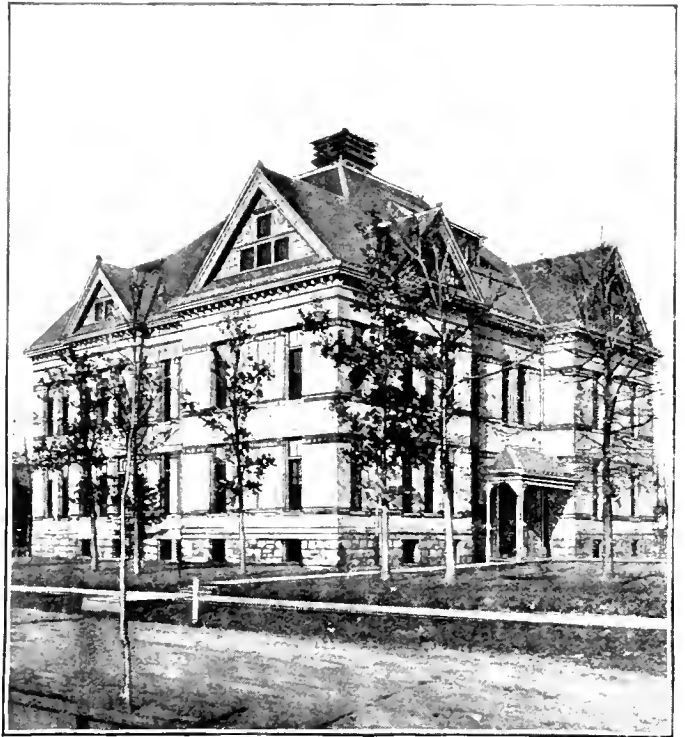




ENGINE HOUSE NO.



TURNER STREET SCHOOL




STRAIGHT STREET SCHOOL



DIVISION STREET SCHOOL

THE CITY SCHOOLS.

The Free Public Schools—Their Maintenance and Cost—The Courses Taught—Private Schools—The Free Public Library.

THE Public Free Schools of Grand Rapids are second to none in the State, either in the broad range of their course of study or in the ability and thoroughness of their instructors; while the Michigan schools are justly celebrated the country over for their efficiency and progressive spirit. In no other city in the State, perhaps, has there been so much accomplished in the way of offering opportunities for the acquirement of an education which will meet the practical needs of all classes of pupils, whatever their life avocation.

These schools are organized, and have been for seventeen years, under a special act of the State Legislature making the whole city one district and placing their control in a Board of Education consisting of sixteen Trustees and the Mayor, the latter holding office for one year. The trustees are chosen for two years—two from each of the eight wards—one from each ward being elected each year on the first Monday in September, thus keeping "politics," in the common acceptation of the term, from entering into the elections. Nine members of the board, a bare majority, are chosen each year, thus making the system exceedingly democratic and sensitive to popular control, while the holding over of eight of the seventeen members maintains a conservative element which the experience of years has demonstrated ample to guard against too sudden or too radical innovations. The members of the board serve without pay, and the great public interest felt in educational matters is well demonstrated by the fact that school elections are often among the most hotly contested in the city, although no questions but educational ones enter into them. The qualified voters at school elections include—first, all voters at ordinary elections (male citizens over 21 years of age); second, all citizens "having property liable to taxation;" third, all parents who have children of school age (over 5 and under 20 years). Under these second and third clauses women vote quite generally, and are also eligible as Trustees; as yet, however, no woman has been chosen to this office, though several candidates have been put in nomination since the law making them eligible went into effect in 1885.

The public schools are wholly free, no tuition being charged from the lowest department to the highest, except to pupils not residents of the city. The last session of the Legislature, on petition of the School Board, so amended the law as to authorize the board to purchase text-books and all other school supplies and furnish the free use of them to pupils—such supplies, however, to remain the property of the board. The coming school year will doubtless see this new system introduced.

PRIMARY AND GRAMMAR DEPARTMENTS.

The public school course includes twelve years—the first four in the primary schools, the second four in the grammar, and the last four in the high school department.

Recognizing that the city is a great and rapidly growing manufacturing and industrial center, it has been the aim of the school authorities to adapt the course of study in all departments to the practical needs of such a population, while at the same time affording the most liberal facilities for acquiring the higher education. The fact, however, that by far the larger number of pupils never reach the high school has caused the most earnest and persistent efforts to so organize and perfect the primary and grammar schools as to secure to the great body of pupils the best and most practical education possible, and with the most satisfactory results. At the New Orleans Expo-

sition the Grand Rapids exhibit of primary and grammar work won the highest testimonials, not only from the best educational authorities of this country, but from those of foreign nations—and these departments are all the time steadily increasing in efficiency. Special teachers in penmanship, drawing and music superintend the work in these branches in all the grades, but it is in the primary and grammar departments the greatest good results from this special instruction. Music, as fully demonstrated by experience, not only exerts a great and beneficial moral influence, but, strengthening and softening the voice, it is also a most useful aid in making good readers; while drawing, educating eye and hand, lays a solid basis for the far readier acquirement of any trade or avocation requiring mechanical skill—a most important matter in a manufacturing and industrial center, as it is the educated eye and hand that marks the chief distinction between the skillful workman and the "botch." In brief, the aim in the primary and grammar schools is to teach thoroughly the essential elements of a sound, practical education.

HIGH-SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

The course of study in the high schools—like that in the primary and grammar departments—is arranged with special reference to the wants of students (by far the greater number) who complete their studies here, while at the same time there are courses specially adapted to those wishing to enter the University of Michigan or other first-class institutions of learning.

There are five distinct high school diploma courses. Two consist wholly of English studies—the English Commercial course, including book-keeping (in place of the higher mathematics), science, history and English literature; and the Preparatory English, which differs from the other chiefly in giving more mathematics and thus fitting the graduate for the University. The Modern Language course includes German, French, science—is, in fact, largely elective. The modern languages begin with the first high-school year, being taught as living tongues, the aim being that the pupil shall be able to speak, read and write them readily as well as gain a knowledge of their grammar and literature. These three courses have been found to be specially suited to the practical needs of young men and women whose education ends in the high school.

The Latin and Modern Language course fits students for the university with a view to the degree of bachelor of philosophy or of science. The Classical course is the usual one for bachelor of arts, and includes four years of Latin, two of Greek, and a full course of mathematics. Graduates of the high school in the preparatory courses are admitted on their diplomas to the University of Michigan without examination.

Among the studies taught, not always included in high-school courses, are zoology, chemistry, geology, botany, astronomy and political economy. The natural sciences are studied by the laboratory or experimental method, and with specially satisfactory results. The Kent Scientific Museum, in the Central High-School building, is one of the richest collections in the State, its treasures being the accumulation of years of systematic work by the members of the Kent Scientific Institute. The Free Public School Library, also a part of the city's educational system, is likewise an invaluable aid to both teachers and pupils; but this institution will be described at more length under its appropriate title.

THE NIGHT AND UNGRADED SCHOOLS.

During the fall and winter months evening schools, for the benefit of

young men employed during the day (including foreign-born residents who wish to learn English), are conducted by experienced teachers.

The Ungraded or Truant School has been in operation for several years, with most satisfactory results. Two classes of pupils attend this school—the chronic truants and other incorrigibles from the graded schools, and such of the class forced into the schools by the truant officer (under the provisions of the compulsory school law) as are unfit, for any reason, to enter the graded schools. As soon as these ungraded school pupils show themselves fit in deportment and studies they are transferred to the graded schools in their proper districts. As a means of preventing truancy in the graded schools, and reforming lawless pupils, the ungraded school has proved a most beneficial agency.

MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL.

The proposition to establish a manual training department, in connection with the public schools, has been for some time under consideration, and a resolution to that end is now in the hands of a committee. The idea is not to teach any particular trades, but to give theoretical and practical instruction in the elementary principles underlying them all.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND PROPERTY.

The city has twenty three public school buildings, with 8,958 sittings, and the estimated cash value of the school property, as given by the official report of the Board of Education (just issued) is \$952,100. With the exception of three buildings, containing in all twelve rooms, all these structures are substantial brick edifices, and most of them architectural ornaments that are a source of pride to citizens. The Central High School and the Union High School are the only three story buildings, the former containing nineteen and the latter eleven rooms. The Union is over a mile distant from the Central, on the other side of the river, and the first three grades of the high school course have been introduced in this building during the last few years, the object being to make high school opportunities easily accessible in all parts of the city. Besides the high-school buildings there are two 14 room buildings, two 12 room, one 11-room, one 10-room, one 9 room, four 8 room, two 7 room, three 6 room, four 4-room and one 2 room building. They are generally steam or furnace heated, and ventilated after the most approved methods. During the year 1887 new buildings were added to accommodate some 700 pupils, and the outlook is for fully as great an increase for 1888. For the last three years the new buildings have been erected by the board itself, under direction of its Building Committee and Superintendent of Construction, and with the most satisfactory results both as to quality of work and economy in expenditure.

TEACHERS AND SALARIES.

There are at present 212 teachers in the public schools, including the Superintendent, and the salaries for the school year ending Sept. 1, 1887, when the number of teachers was 204, aggregated \$96,975; the salary of the Superintendent being \$2,500 and of the high school principals \$1,800 and \$1,500 respectively. The salaries in the primary and grammar schools, both for principals and assistants, have for the last half dozen years been fixed by standing rules based on position and experience. Principals receive \$500 for the first room, with \$25 for each additional room in the building. Assistants in charge of rooms receive maximum salaries as follows on entering their fifth year's experience in that capacity: Teachers of first and seventh grades, \$550; second and sixth grades, inclusive, \$500; eighth and ninth grades, \$400. Cadets receive \$200 for first year, \$300 for second (if remaining so long a cadet) and on promotion to the charge of a room receive \$350, which is increased by regular stages each year until the maximum of the grade is reached. Teachers from abroad receive such credit for experience as the board's committee deems just, not to exceed full time for work in graded schools and half time for ungraded work.

Three grades of teachers' certificates are provided, the third being the lowest, and in recommending teachers for appointment or promotion the rules require, other things being equal, decided preference to be given to

teachers holding the highest grade certificate. The same salary is paid for the same work, in whatever position, be the teacher man or woman.

THE PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDS.

The public school moneys are derived: First, from the interest on the primary school moneys received by the State from the sale of the "school section" lands in each township, the city's share of which for the last school year was \$14,405, or \$1.03 for each pupil of school age in the city, and \$1.81 for each pupil enrolled in the schools. Second, the county and police court fines, which go chiefly to the library fund, and which amounted for the same year to \$3,223. Third, the 1-mill tax, provided for by the State law, which must be applied only to payment of salaries, and which should amount to some \$20,000 annually, the assessed valuation for 1887 being \$20,380,477. Fourth, the annual city school-tax budget voted by the Board of Education, ratified or amended by the Common Council, and collected with the general city, county and State taxes. The board has also power, on ratification by the Council, to issue bonds for building or other purposes.

RAPID GROWTH OF THE SCHOOLS.

Some statistics will best illustrate the rapid growth of the schools, as also the public spirit of citizens in providing accommodations for the rapidly swelling school population. In 1878 the city had twelve school buildings, with a seating capacity of 4,029; now there are twenty-three school buildings, with a seating capacity of 8,958. In 1878 the number of different pupils enrolled was 5,039; in 1887 it was 8,539. In 1878 the total number of teachers was 92; now the number is 212. It has been quite the uniform practice, in erecting new buildings, to raise the money for the buildings themselves on long time bonds, putting the cost of site and school furniture into the annual tax budget. The city has now outstanding \$204,000 school building bonds, covering a period up to 1907, every dollar of it issued since June 1, 1878—all except \$24,000 7 per cents. bearing 4 and 5 per cent. interest. The official school annual for 1887, just issued, says: "Since 1879 the board has expended \$241,000 on ten new buildings, besides doubling up several others."

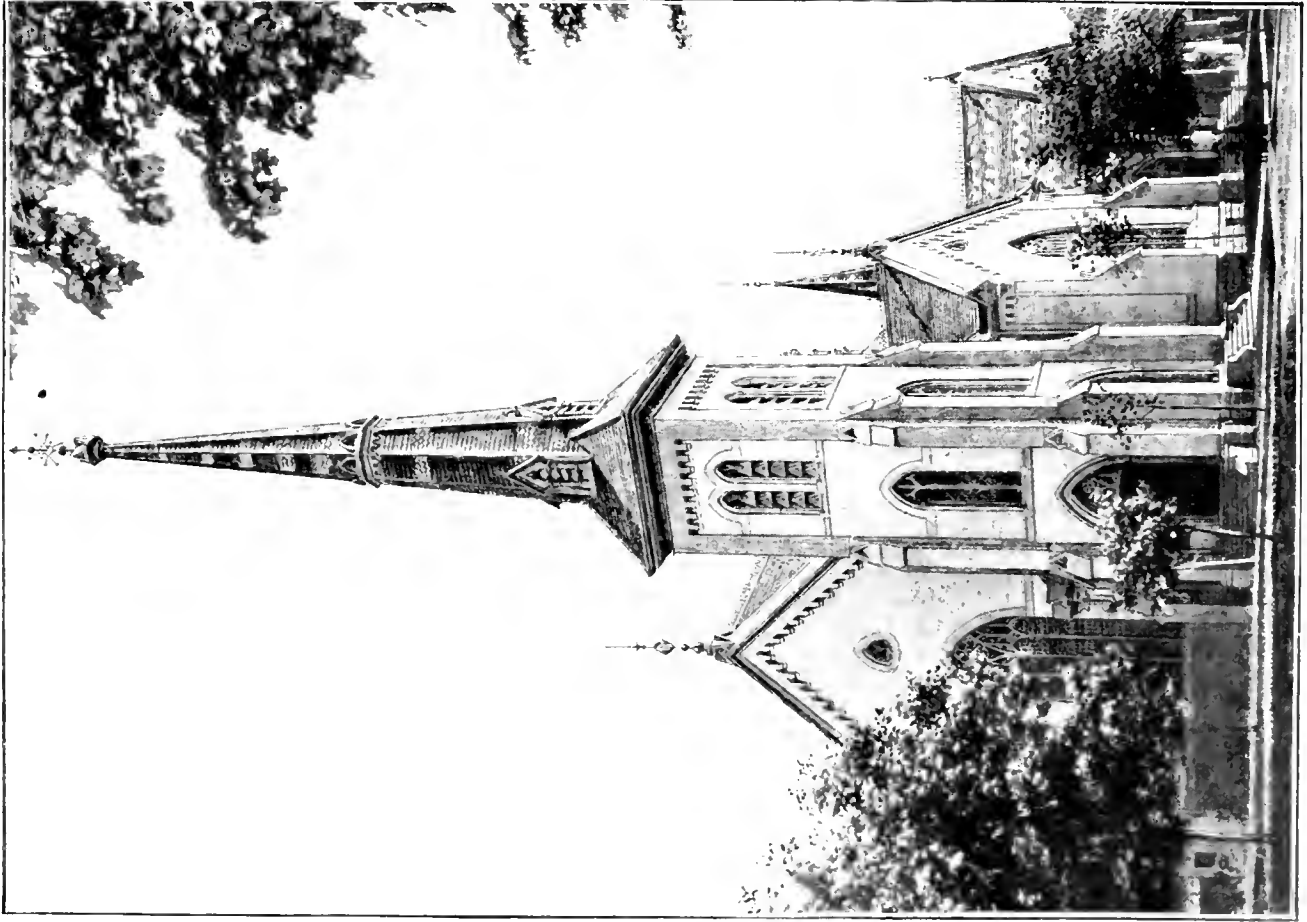
Up to Feb. 24, 1888, the total number of pupils enrolled in the schools was 8,580—618 more than had been enrolled up to Feb. 24, 1887, and 41 more than the total enrollment for the school year ending September, 1887. It is estimated the total enrollment for the year ending September, 1888, will be fully 9,189, or an increase of 650 over 1887.

STATISTICAL, FINANCIAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

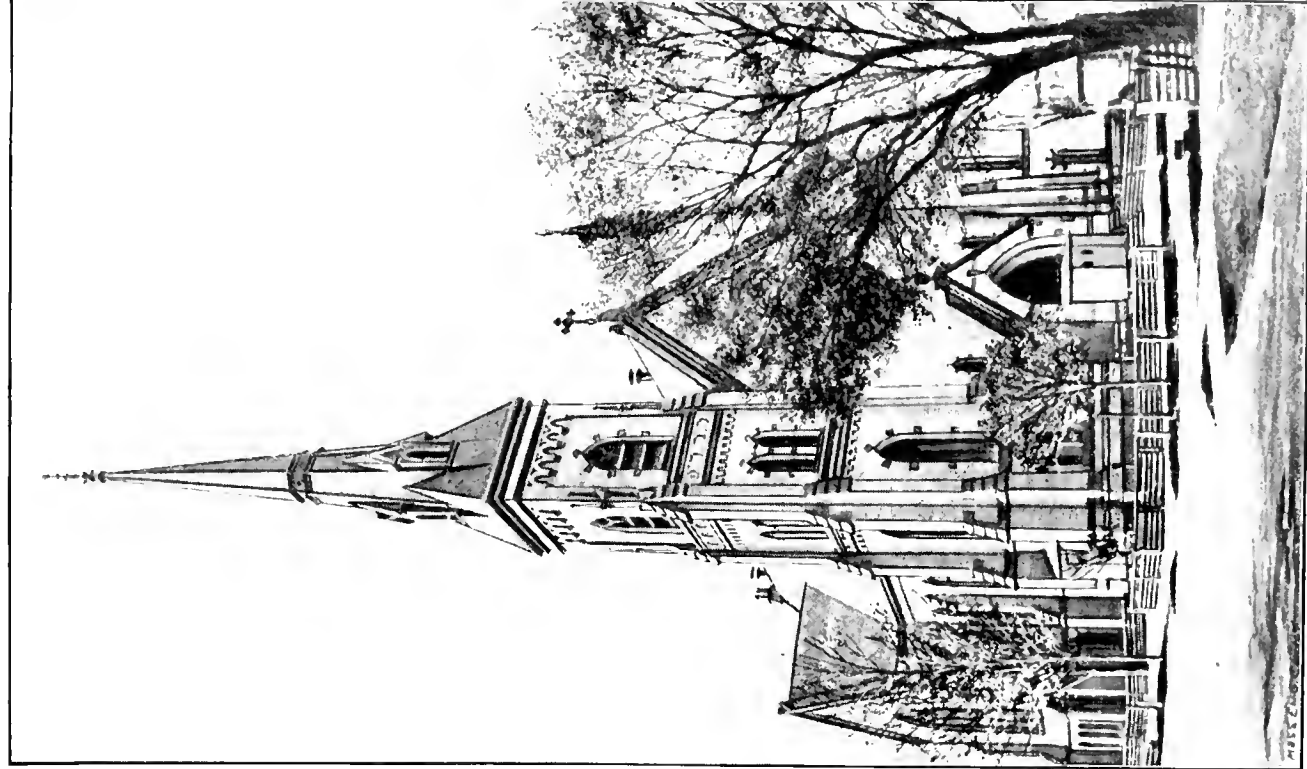
The school population, according to the census of 1886, was 12,775; in 1887 it was 14,000—an increase of 1,291 for the year. Total enrollment of different pupils in 1887, 8,539—an increase over 1886 of 271. Of this 8,539 pupils, 930 were in the high school (about double the number in 1885), 2,427 in the grammar, and 5,482 in the primary department. The number in high school over 16 years of age was 231; in the grammar, 63; in the primaries, 6—a total of 300 pupils over 16. The number under 6 years in the primaries was 379. Total number of boys in schools, 4,249; girls, 4,290.

The rate of school taxation for the year 1886-7, including State 1-mill tax, was 7 mills on the dollar. The assessed valuation of the city was \$20,380,477, being about one half the actual cash valuation, making the actual rate of school taxation, for all purposes, only 3½ mills on the dollar. The total expenses of the Board of Education for 1886-7, for all purposes, was \$183,344, of which \$30,935 was for buildings, school sites, school furniture, grading and sewers and other permanent improvements. The school budget for 1886-7, exclusive of mill tax, \$27,475 building bonds and \$14,405 primary school money, was \$123,000; the budget estimates for the current year, 1887-8, with the same exclusions, are \$152,000; total estimated expenses for teachers salaries, \$106,000; estimated per cent. of taxation for all school purposes, including State mill-tax, for 1887-8, 8½ mills on the dollar assessed valuation, which is half the actual cash valuation.

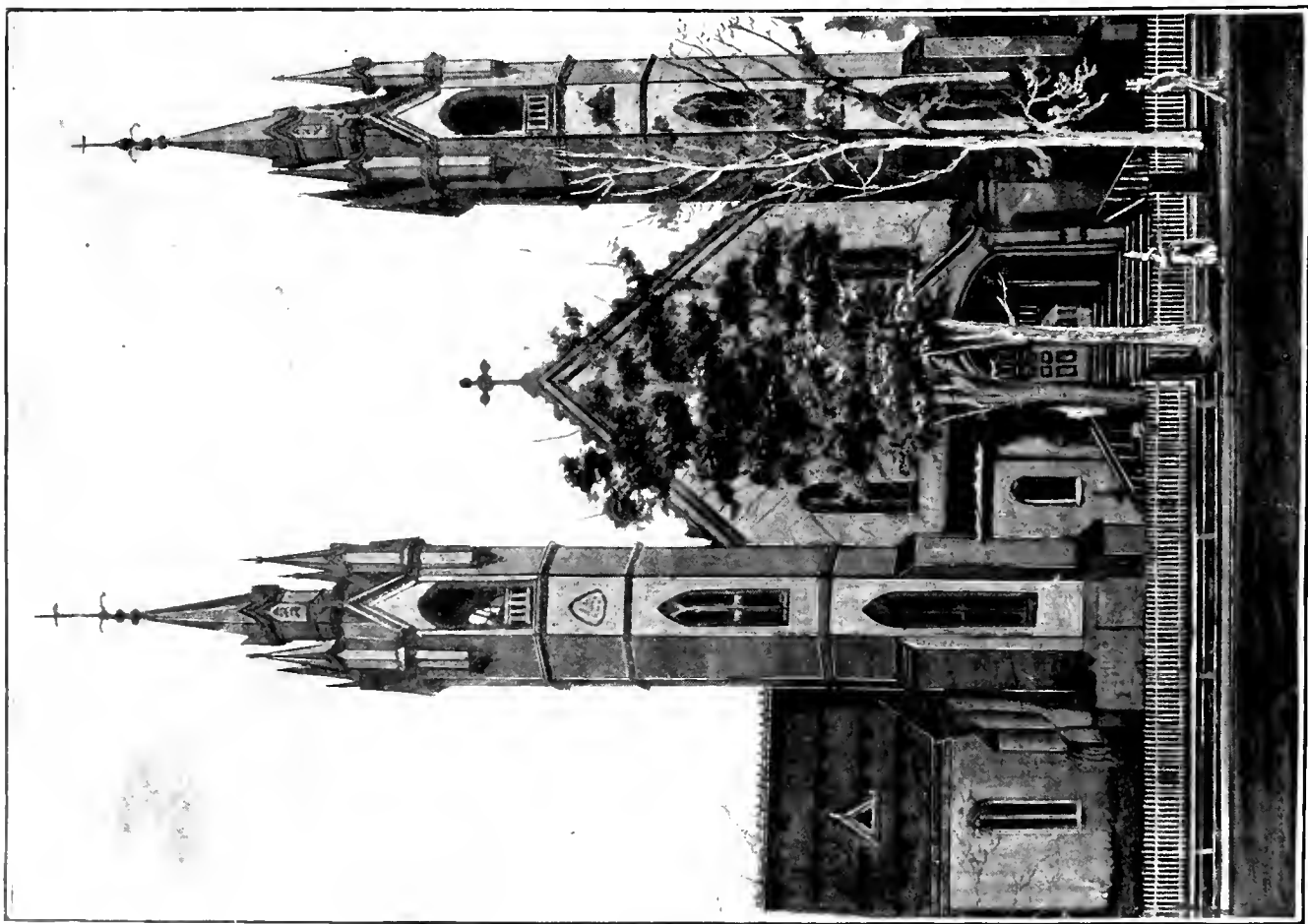
Average number of pupils to teacher in 1886-7, 34; number of men teachers, 8; women teachers, 204; average cost per pupil for whole school,



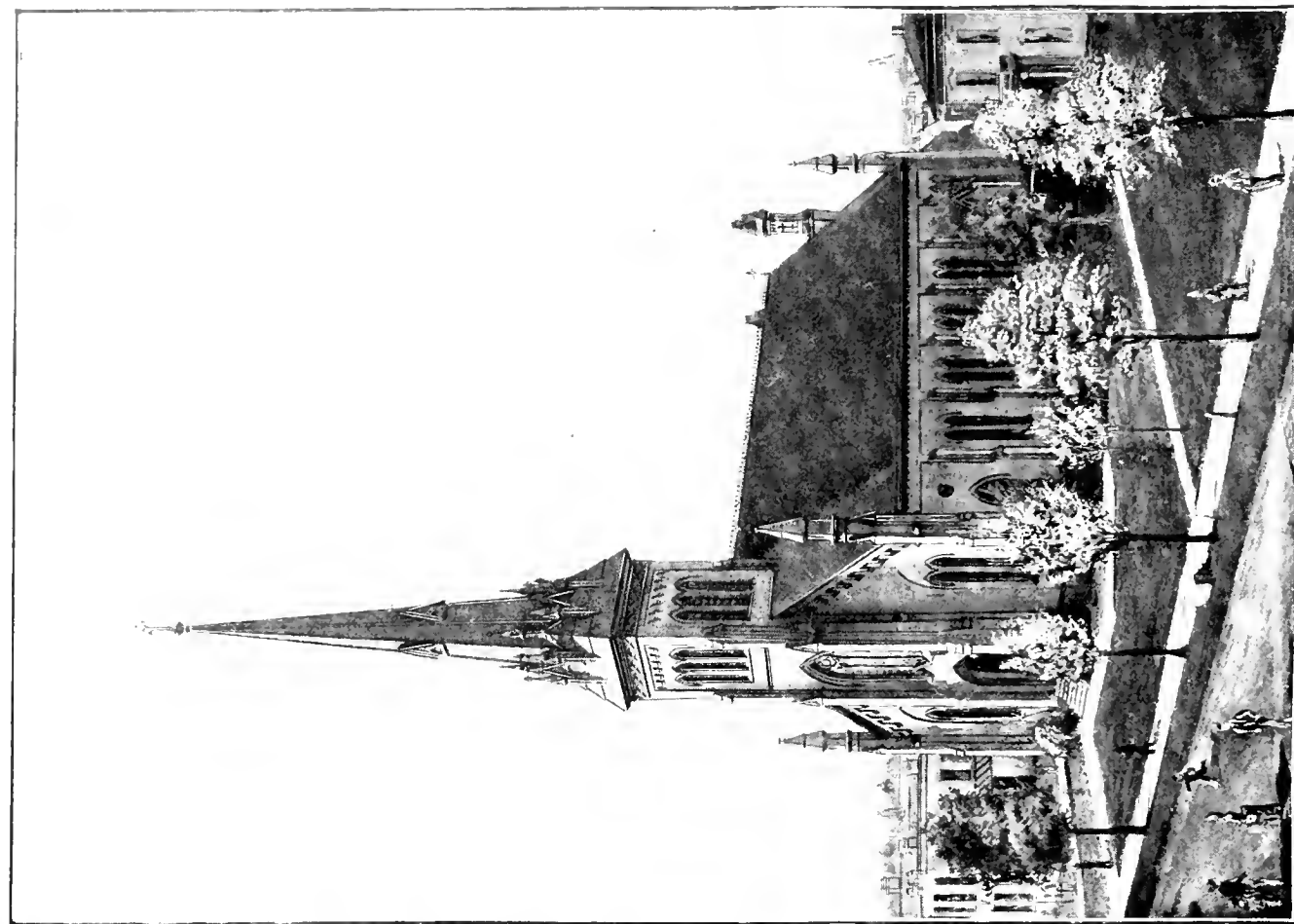
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LAGRANGE AND ISLAND STREETS



FOUNTAIN ST. BAPTIST CHURCH FOUNTAIN AND BOSTWICK ST.



ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH—NO. DIVISION STREET.



ST. JAMES' CATHOLIC CHURCH—WEST BRIDGE STREET.

\$19.93; number non-resident pupils in 1887, 153; studying Latin, 229; Greek, 10; German, 62; French, 32.

The Superintendent of Schools, his clerk, the teachers, superintendent of construction, librarian and assistants are all employed for one year only; the contracts are, however, usually renewed year after year. Since the consolidation of the city schools under the present system, in 1871, there have been only three school superintendents.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

The estimated number of pupils in the schools not public, as given by the public school authorities, is 1,788. These schools are: One Holland Reformed Church Theological Seminary, one Holland Protestant School, three English Catholic Schools, one of high grade; one German Catholic, one Polish Catholic, two German Protestant schools and one Kindergarten. There are also three Business colleges, one school for mechanical drawing, one for free-hand and artistic drawing, modeling in clay, casting and wood carving, two for oil and water-color painting, two vocal music schools, one for elocution, and one dancing school, besides private teachers of German, French, Spanish and other branches. These private schools are generally good, some being of high merit.

PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The "Public School Library of the City of Grand Rapids," more popularly spoken of and commonly known as "The Grand Rapids Public Library,"

is under the control of the Board of Education as part of the school system of the city.

The library was organized in its present public character, with free circulation, in 1871, and first opened with 4,000 volumes. Since that date it has slowly but steadily grown in use and usefulness, and on the first day of January, 1888, possessed, in its circulating department, 14,036 volumes; in its reference department, 1,542 volumes; and of United States and State documents, etc., 2,091 volumes. A total of 17,669 bound volumes (besides some pamphlets and other miscellaneous matter), for use and reference by the schools and public.

The funds for its maintenance are derived in part from appropriations by the Board of Education, \$3,000 a year in the past two years, for expenses only, and in part from the application of criminal fines, as provided by State laws; the latter item, varying from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year, being usually depended upon for the purchase of books and reading matter.

Card holders registered in the present series, 5,220, less 255 canceled; leaving a balance of 4,965 in force, which is the nominal number entitled to use the library at the beginning of the year 1888. Under the present improved registration system each book-taker's card has a life of two years from date of issue; at the expiration of which time it has to be renewed, together with its surety signature.

During the recent library year, ending Aug. 31, 1887, the circulating department was open but 261 days; in which time 72,986 volumes were issued for home use. Daily average circulation, 280; largest daily delivery (Feb. 10, 1887), 762; smallest (June 8, 1887), 130; largest daily number in hands of readers (March 10, 1887), 2,522; smallest (July 10, 1887), 1,586.



Churches and Religious Institutions.

The Prominent Denominations Represented—An Array of Handsome Edifices—The Number of Church Members.

CHURCH spires are a sort of index to the moral character of the community. The membership of the churches indicates the religious inclinations of the people, while the character of the edifices indicate their generosity. In both these respects Grand Rapids makes a creditable showing.

A STATISTICAL SHOWING.

The following table shows the number of societies, the number of communicants and the valuation of the church property of the different denominations:

DENOMINATIONS.	NO. OF CHURCHES.	COMMUNICANTS.	VALUE OF PROPERTY.
Baptist	3	827	\$118,000
Children of Zion	1	300	10,000
Congregational	4	990	105,000
Disciples	1	150	12,000
Episcopal	1	867	109,250
Lutheran	4	725	23,000
Methodist Episcopal	5	1,340	112,500
Presbyterian	3	615	30,000
Reformed	13	1,500	177,000
Roman Catholic	5	10,000	227,700
Universalist	2	182	30,000
All other churches	7	525	37,000
Total	52	20,931	\$1,004,460

The "other churches" mentioned in the last item include 2 African churches, 1 Unitarian, 1 Swedenborgian, 1 Free Methodist, 1 Independent German and 1 Hebrew society.

This city is the residence of the Bishops of both the Episcopal and the Catholic churches of Western Michigan, and several churches of other denominations are among the largest in the State.

OTHER RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS.

Besides the church organizations proper, there are a number of organizations more or less directly connected with the churches and working in conjunction with them. The Young Men's Christian Association numbers 450 members and is prosperous and constantly growing.

Among the other religious institutions may be mentioned St. Mark's Home (Episcopal), which has property valued at \$92,000; the Catholic Orphan Asylum, valued at \$75,000; the Little Sisters of the Poor Home for the aged, the buildings of which, completed, will be worth \$80,000; the Womens' Home and Hospital, under the auspices of the Womens' Christian Temperance Union, for taking temporary care of unfortunate women; a Holland Theological Seminary; a Holland Protestant school; two English Catholic schools; one German Catholic school, two German Protestant schools; one Roman Catholic school for men.

SOCIAL ATTRACTIONS.

The Opportunities for Social and Intellectual Culture—Secret and Other Societies.



FEW cities of the size of Grand Rapids can boast a more cosmopolitan population. The wonderful growth of the city, its rapidly developed manufacturing and other industrial resources, and the highly enterprising spirit of its people, have gained for it a reputation hardly spanned by the boundaries of the country; and, as a result of this well earned fame, representatives of many different nationalities have found their way to the Valley City. The great mass of the population is, of course, of American birth. The earliest settlers of the valley were New Yorkers, followed rapidly by a strong New England element, and later by people from the bordering States, and in time by large numbers of the better class of foreigners. Fully two-thirds of the people are of American birth, and the large foreign element is as strongly American in spirit as the veriest Yankee. The Hollanders outnumber all others of foreign descent in Grand Rapids. There are nearly 10,000 within the corporate limits. The German population numbers about 7,000, and include many of the most prominent citizens of the community. There are also about 2,000 Scandinavians, 1,000 Polanders, and of all other foreign nationalities perhaps 2,000.

SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS.

Prominent among the social features of the city are the two gentlemen's clubs, known as the Peninsular Club and the O Wash-ta-Nong Boat Club. The former was organized in 1881 and now numbers in its membership 292 of the foremost citizens of the place—men distinguished in business, social and professional circles. An elegant club house, costing, with the ground on which it stands, nearly \$50,000, demonstrates the popularity and prosperity of the organization.

The O Wash-ta-Nong Boat Club was organized in 1886 with a charter membership of about twenty, and on Jan. 1, 1888, had grown to number 700 members, has built a boat house at Reed's Lake valued at \$6,000, and has fitted up a down town club house at an expense of \$11,000. Both clubs are highly popular, not exacting in fees and dues, and form a great factor in the city's social life. The Grand Rapids Fencing Club, a recent organization, has a membership of about fifty young men, and occupies fine club rooms in the Fourth National Bank Building.

Numerous smaller clubs and societies, with widely varying aims and purposes, have sprung up from time to time in obedience to the increasing social demands of the city. Some of the most popular of these are in connection with church organizations, while others are made up entirely from people of single nationalities, who unite to build family club-houses or resorts. Prominent among such societies may be mentioned the Arbeiter Society (German) owning property valued at \$20,000; the Turn Verein with \$7,000 worth of property; the Germania, owning a handsome hall erected recently at a cost of \$9,000; the Casino Association, owning the Casino building, worth \$9,000.

Among those of a miscellaneous character are the Burns Club (Scotch), Catholic Young Men's Club, the Philadelphia (German), Swedish Society Norden, German Unterstuetzung Verein, Swedish Workingmen's Society, Old Settlers' Association, Holland Mutual Aid Society, and many others of less prominence, all exerting a salutary influence and constituting a part in the social life of Grand Rapids.

LITERARY.

Among organizations engaged in literary pursuits the Ladies' Literary Club holds the first place, both in number of members and in general pros-

perity. This club, organized in 1870, now has a membership of about 300. Within the year past the club has built a beautiful club-house, the property being valued at \$15,000, and has furnished and equipped it in a most complete manner, making it a delightful resort for the enterprising ladies who built it.

The West Side Ladies' Literary Club is a younger organization, but in a flourishing condition and doing excellent work.

Three Chautauqua circles are pursuing the course of study prescribed by the large and flourishing educational society of which they are branches, all under competent leadership, and highly beneficial to their members.

The Fortnightly Club, made up of young people with literary, musical and histrionic tastes; the Monday Club, pursuing a high grade of literary work, and the Irish-American Literary Society, are among the most prominent and active of such organizations now in existence in Grand Rapids.

The Thalia and Alpha clubs are dramatic organizations and give frequent and successful exhibitions of amateur theatricals.

ATHLETIC.

The O-Wash-ta-Nong Boat Club takes the lead in athletics, fosters respectable sports, and in its finely appointed boat house and gymnasium has every athletic appliance to be conceived of. The regatta of the Northwestern Amateur Rowing Association has been held with this club at Reed's Lake for two successive years, and the association has voted to continue their regattas at the same place for the next three years.

The Grand Rapids Driving Park Association furnishes lovers of horse flesh with fine racing meetings annually.

The Grand Rapids Cricket Club was organized in 1887 and has an enthusiastic membership of over fifty devotees of the English sport, and is rapidly becoming one of the popular athletic institutions of the city.

The Kent County Sportsmen's Club is highly prosperous, attractive to lovers of the rod and gun, and numbers in its membership many of the most prominent citizens of the community.

SCIENTIFIC.

The Kent Scientific Institute, an ancient and honorable organization, dates from 1865, being a creature of the High School, and has had a successful career. The Institute has an energetic and progressive membership, and has acquired a fine Museum of Natural History and Archaeology. The meetings are largely attended and are a valuable aid in scientific studies, and in many ways the organization is a credit to the city that has always encouraged and fostered it.

There are also several informal organizations engaged in microscopical, botanical and other scientific investigations.

SECRET AND BENEVOLENT.

Nearly all the large secret societies are represented in Grand Rapids by numerous lodges and other subordinate bodies, and for the most part are well sustained. The Masonic order has three subordinate or Blue lodges, a Chapter of the Royal Arch, Commandery of Knights Templar, organizations of the Scottish Rite, a Temple of the Mystic Shrine, and a Chapter of the Eastern Star. The Odd Fellows have four subordinate lodges, an Encampment and a Canton of Patriarchs Militant, also a Lodge of the Rebekah degree. There are two Knights of Pythias lodges and a Division of the

Uniformed Rank of the same order. One lodge of the Elks, two lodges of the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and a legion of Select Knights A. O. U. W., one lodge of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, three Posts of the G. A. R., one lodge of B'nai B'rith, four lodges of Red Men, two of Knights of Honor, three of Knights of the Maccabees, four of the order of Chosen Friends, four of Royal Templars of Temperance, two of the Royal Arcanum, one of the Royal Adelpheia, one Temple of the Patriarchal Circle, a lodge of Heptasophs, or Seven Wise Men, a lodge of Knights of the Golden Eagle, a camp of Sons of Veterans, two branches of the Womans' Relief Corps, four lodges of Good Templars, one each of the Iron Hall, of the National Union, Order of Railroad Conductors, and of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. There are several assemblies of the Knights of Labor.

Among benevolent societies, not secret in their nature, may be enumerated the Women's Christian Temperance Union, with eight branches, the Young Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Catholic Mutual Benevolent Association, Hebrew Ladies' Benevolent Association, Dania Aid Society, Police Relief and Benefit Association, Firemen's Benefit Society, Masonic Mutual Benefit Association, Masonic Home Association, and a number of beneficial societies organized among employes of the various factories. In nearly all of these organizations insurance is furnished on the assessment plan, and sick benefits and other advantages accrue to those uniting with them. Nearly all have fine lodge rooms, and the various public and private entertainments given by them from time to time are sources of pleasure and profit to members and their friends.

FAIRS.

The Kent County Agricultural Society owns large grounds directly south of the city with handsome and commodious buildings, a fine race track and all the appurtenances of a well conducted Fair Ground. For the past ten years or more an annual fair has been held at this place, under the auspices of the West Michigan Agricultural and Industrial Association, in conjunction with the Grand River Valley Horticultural Society. These fairs

have been highly successful, drawing fine exhibits in all lines from Western and Northern Michigan, and being especially rich in the display of industrial products from the City of Grand Rapids. The attendance usually exceeds that at the State Fair, and in number and quality of exhibits, the superiority is marked. A permanent exhibition will, in the near future, be the outgrowth of these popular exhibitions of the industrial and agricultural wealth of Western Michigan.

MUSICAL.

The St. Cecilia Society, Schubert Club, Maas Choral Society, Oratorio Society, Harmonic and Germania Singing Societies, are the principal amateur musical societies in Grand Rapids. They are popular, composed of enthusiastic musicians, and their frequent entertainments are events of no little importance to the music-loving portion of the community.

MILITARY.

Grand Rapids has just reason to be proud of the three military companies that live and prosper within her boundaries. They are, respectively, the Grand Rapids Guards, Custer Guards, and Innes Rifles. They are connected with the State troops and are known as Companies B, I and K, of the Second Regiment. All are provided with excellently equipped armories and entertain their friends with frequent social gatherings. They are proficient in drill, well officered and made up of young and enthusiastic men. The Brigadier General commanding the State troops and several staff and line officers reside in Grand Rapids.

In all the various lines of amusement, recreation, culture and education referred to herein Grand Rapids offers exceptional advantages. There is something to cater to every worthy taste and to stimulate every laudable ambition, and in the widely varying modes of relaxation suggested by the many organizations named people of all occupations can find congenial companionship and renewed vigor for their daily labors. Thus all tend to the common result, the development of the vast industrial resources of the Grand River valley.



LIST OF MEMBERS.

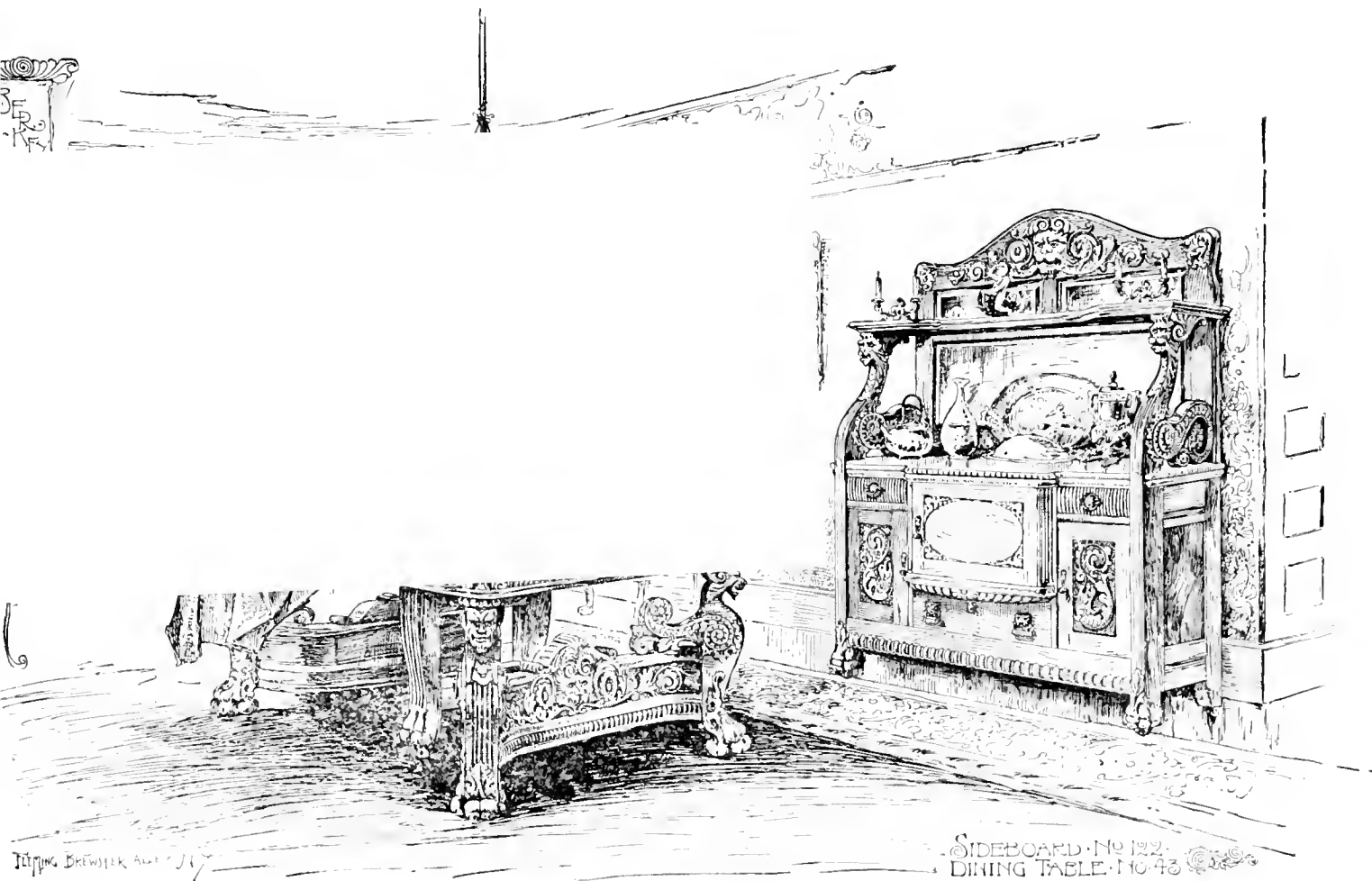
Ainsworth, C.
 Allen, E. C.
 Amberg, D. M.
 Anderson, W. H.
 Antisdel, A. K.
 Arnott, Geo.
 Aspinwall, S. F.
 Atwater, A. B.
 Austin, L. H.
 Baars, J. Frederick.
 Baker, H. P.
 Ball, Fred. H.
 Baddie John W.
 Ball, Orson A.
 Ball, Frank W.
 Ball, S. S.
 Barnard, E. M.
 Barnhart, Franklin.
 Barnhart, Willard.
 Barlow, Jno. B.
 Barth, Jacob.
 Bates, Marcus W.
 Baxter, Alfred.
 Behnke, G. H.
 Belknap, C. E.
 Benjamin, Leonard.
 Benjamin, John.
 Bennett, S. P.
 Berkey, C. H.
 Bertsch, C.
 Bevier, A.
 Bissell, M. R.
 Black, C. W.
 Blair, James.
 Blickley, C.
 Bonnell, J. C.
 Botsford, Jas. E.
 Brown, O. E.
 Bowne, A. J.
 Brezee, Lloyd.
 Briggs, Geo. G.
 Brown, F. E.
 Browne, W. H.
 Brown, Alfred J.
 Broad, Alfred.
 Brooks, A. E.
 Bulkley, W. F.
 Burch, M. C.
 Burtch, M. T.
 Buss, Geo. F.
 Bunting, Charles C.
 Cartwright, William.
 Cary, L. M.
 Cheney, Z. V.
 Chickering, Frank.
 Church, M. B.
 Clark, Fred. S.
 Clark, Fred. B.
 Clark, N. B.
 Clay, D. P.
 Cody, Darwin D.
 Compton, Wm. R.
 Cook, Percy T.
 Corson, R. W.
 Covode, John A.
 Cox, Wm. E.
 Coye, Charles A.
 Creque, J. P.
 Crippen, A. A.
 Crockett, S. L.
 Crosby, Moreau S.
 Curtiss, John L.
 Davidson, A. Judd.
 Davidson, G. H.
 Davis, Geo. A.
 Davis, Geo. N.
 Denison, Wm. C.
 Dettenthaler, F. J.
 Dewey, W. C.
 Dickinson, Henry R.
 Dikeman, E. B.
 Donnelly, E. H.
 Doran, Peter.
 Dosker, Cornelius.
 Dregge, John.
 Drueke, Wm.
 Dunham, Wm.
 Duntun, Geo. B.
 Duntun, John C.
 Duntun, L. G.
 Durfee, Allen.
 Dykema, K.
 Earle, Wm. S.
 Eaton, Charles W.
 Eaton, James A.
 Emery, W. S.
 Fairman, F.
 Falkel, A.
 Ferris J. T.
 Fisher, E. B.
 Fisher, O. D.
 Fitzgerald, Gerald.
 Follmer, C. Carroll.
 Ford, Edwin P.
 Forrest, George.
 Foote, E. H.
 Fox, Charles.
 Fox, E. Crofton.
 Fox, J. W.
 Fox, P. V.
 Fralick, Henry.
 Friedrich, Julius A. J.
 Freeman, W. L.
 Fuller, Th. C.
 Fuller, Sam'l L.
 Gay, Geo. W.
 Gelock, Wm.
 Gill, C. E.
 Gifford, Geo. P.
 Gilbert, Thos. D.
 Goebel, H. M.
 Goebel, John.
 Goodrich, Chas. M.
 Grady, H. B.
 Grinnell, Henry.
 Gunn, W. A.
 Gunn, W. S.
 Hall, Geo. A.
 Hamilton, E. A.
 Harris, L. D.
 Haush, A.
 Harrison, Wm.
 Hastings, H. F.
 Hatch, I. C.
 Hawkins, L. E.
 Hazeltine, C. S.
 Heald, Joseph.
 Heath, L. W.
 Herkner, Jos. C.
 Herrick, Wm. H.
 Herpolsheimer, W. G.
 Hess, Wm. T.
 Hester, Myron.
 Heyman, M.
 Heystek, Henry J.
 Hodenpyl, A. G.
 Hollister, Harvey J.
 Hoops, Wm. H.
 Horner, Jos.
 Horton, A. C.
 Horton, E. J.
 Houseman, Maurice M.
 Houseman, Jos.
 Houseman, Julius.
 Hovey, Wm. G.
 Huelster, W. W.
 Ingenholtz, Paul Th.
 Inghart, W. O.
 Hunt, Louis E.
 Hunt, Jas. A.
 Idema Henry.
 Ives, Calvin L.
 Ives, Henry.
 Jamieson, John.
 Jenks, S. B.
 Jennings, C. W.
 Jewell, Frank.
 Jewett, John H.
 Johnson, Guy H.
 Johnson, N. B.
 Jones, Eugene W.
 Jones, Wm. H.
 Judd, Charles B.
 Judd, E. E.
 Keate, E. J.
 Kennedy, Alex.
 Kenning, Jno. E.
 Kiddler, E. P.
 Killean, Jno. E.
 Kleindienst, F. W.
 Knowlson, A. B.
 Kortlander, Wm. O.
 Kotvis, John.
 Kusterer, Chas. F.
 Kusterer, Philip.
 Lacey, J. D.
 Lamb, F. J.
 Lamos, H. A.
 Lamoreaux, W. T.
 Leathers, Don J.
 Lee, Edwin A.
 Ledyard, H. T.
 Leitelt, Adolph.
 Lemon, S. M.
 Leonard, Chas. H.
 Letellier, Francis.
 Levi, I. C.
 Lewis, E. P.
 Lewis, G. B.
 Loettigert, Fred.
 Long, Harry W.
 Loomis, C. M.
 Lowe, Roland.
 Lutton, A. E.
 Lyon, Chas. D.
 Lyon, Samuel.
 Lynch, Daniel.
 MacBride, J. G.
 Main, John.
 Mason, Adolph.
 Matter, Elias.
 May, A.
 Meech, Charles C.
 Meigs, Arthur.
 Merrill, Rob't W.
 Miller, Frederick C.
 Mills, Fred D.
 Miner, J.
 Mohl, Ed. E.
 Mohrhard, John.
 Moore, H. N.
 Morgan, C. B.
 Norman, S. A.
 Morton, C.
 Moseley, E. A.
 Moseley, T. F.
 Mowat, John.
 Musselman, Amos S.
 McCallum, P.
 McCoy, Daniel.
 McGrau, Frank.
 McIntyre, John.
 McKee, J. C.
 McQuewan, Chas.
 McWhorter, Chas.
 Nelson, Geo. K.
 Noble, F. L.
 Norris, Chas. H.
 Olney, Chas. E.
 O'Brien, T. J.
 Orr, Rob't.
 Osterhout, Smith W.
 Pantlind, A. V.
 Pantlind, J. Boyd.
 Peck, Thos. N.
 Peirce, Geo. C.
 Pereguine, S. W.
 Penny, Joseph.
 Perkins, Chas. H.
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 Perkins, Henry.
 Perkins, W. J.
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 Reeve, Geo. B.
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 Richmond, A. B.
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 Rosenthal, J. W.
 Rowe, Wm. N.
 Rowson, John.
 Russell, Henry C.
 Rutherford, D. M.
 Schroeffel, Philip J.
 Schultz, Theo.
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 Sears, William.
 Sehler, John.
 Shanahan, M.
 Shelby, W. R.
 Shields, John G.
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 Skinner, A. L.
 Skinner, Chas. O.
 Sligh, Chas. R.
 Smith, Walter A.
 Smith Wm. Alden.
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 Spaulding, C. D.
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 Sprung, Henry.
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 Steketee, Peter P.
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 Strahan, Jno. Q.
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 Stuart, W. J.
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 Swartz, S. P.
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 Teller, Edward.
 Thomas, J. H.
 Thum, Wm.
 Thwing, Z. C.
 Tower, Dan'l W.
 Tuttle, T. Emery.
 Udell, C. S.
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 Veddors, H. A.
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 Wagner, G. N.
 Wallin, F. B.
 Walker, E. E.
 Ward, Oren A.
 Ware, Jas. B.
 Watkins, C. W.
 Waters, D. H.
 Watson, A. B.
 Weatherly, Warren C.
 Weston, I. M.
 Wetzell, D. M.
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 White, John B.
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 Widdicomb, H.
 Widdicomb, Jno.
 Widdicomb, Wm.
 Wilmarth, L. T.
 Winegar, Wm.
 Wintermiz, Lud.
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 Wykes, James H.
 Wykes, Thos. E.

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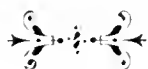
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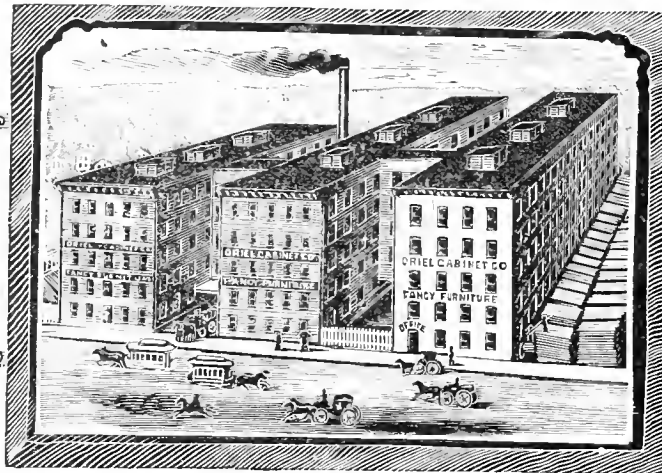
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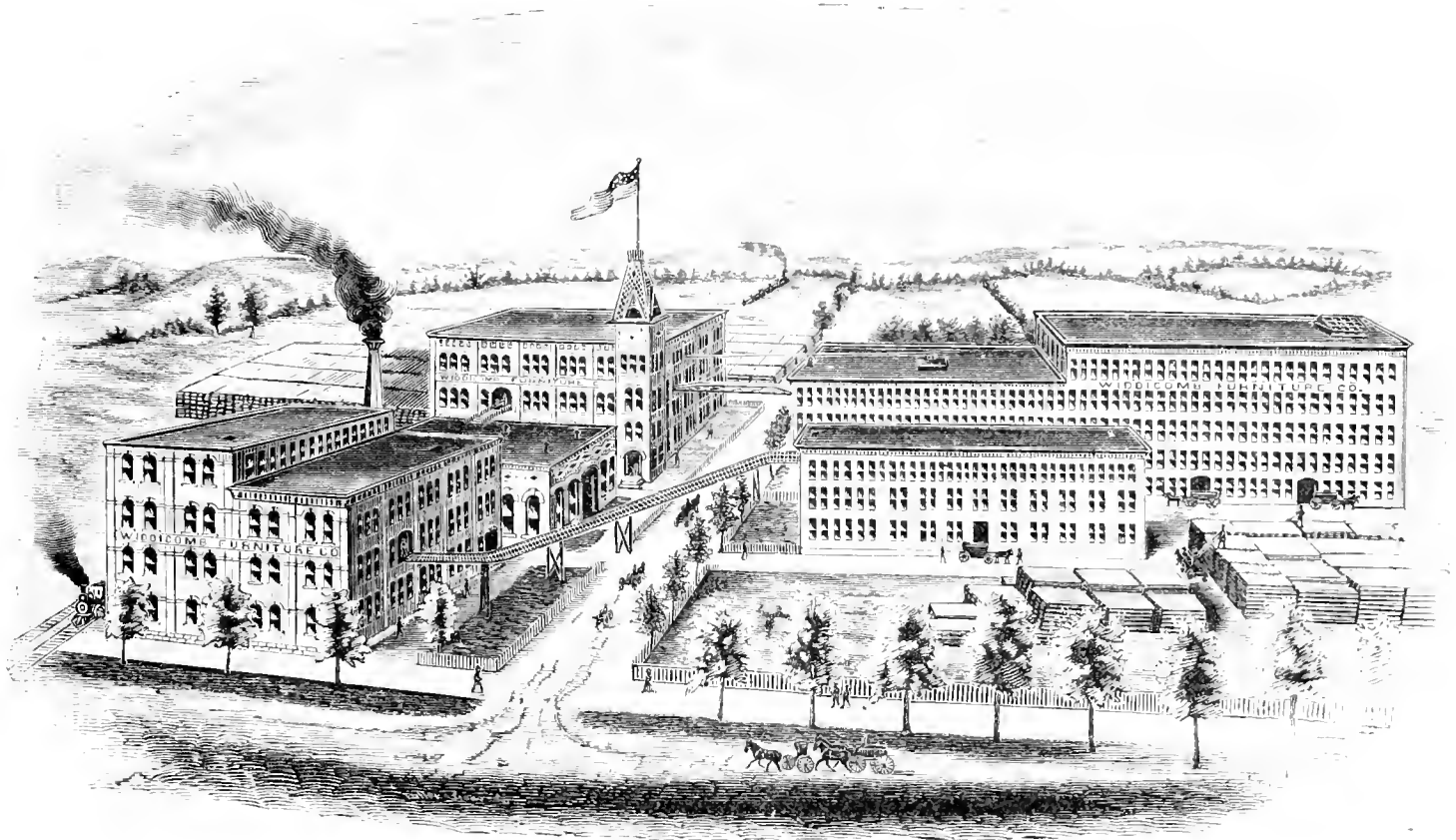
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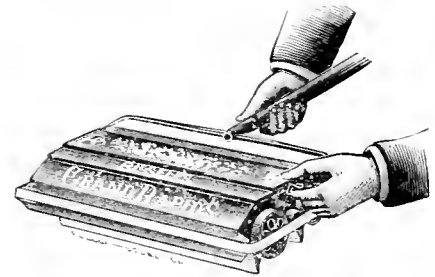
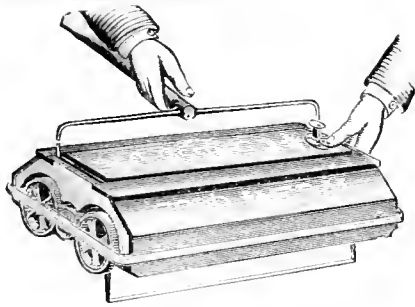
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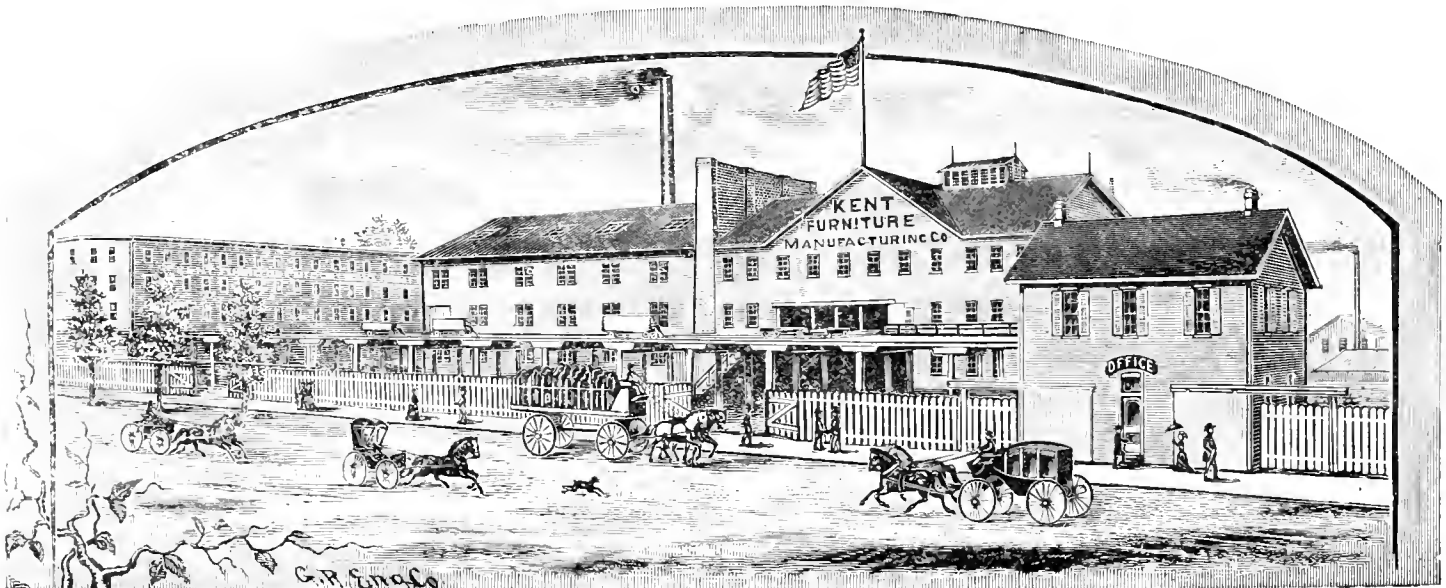
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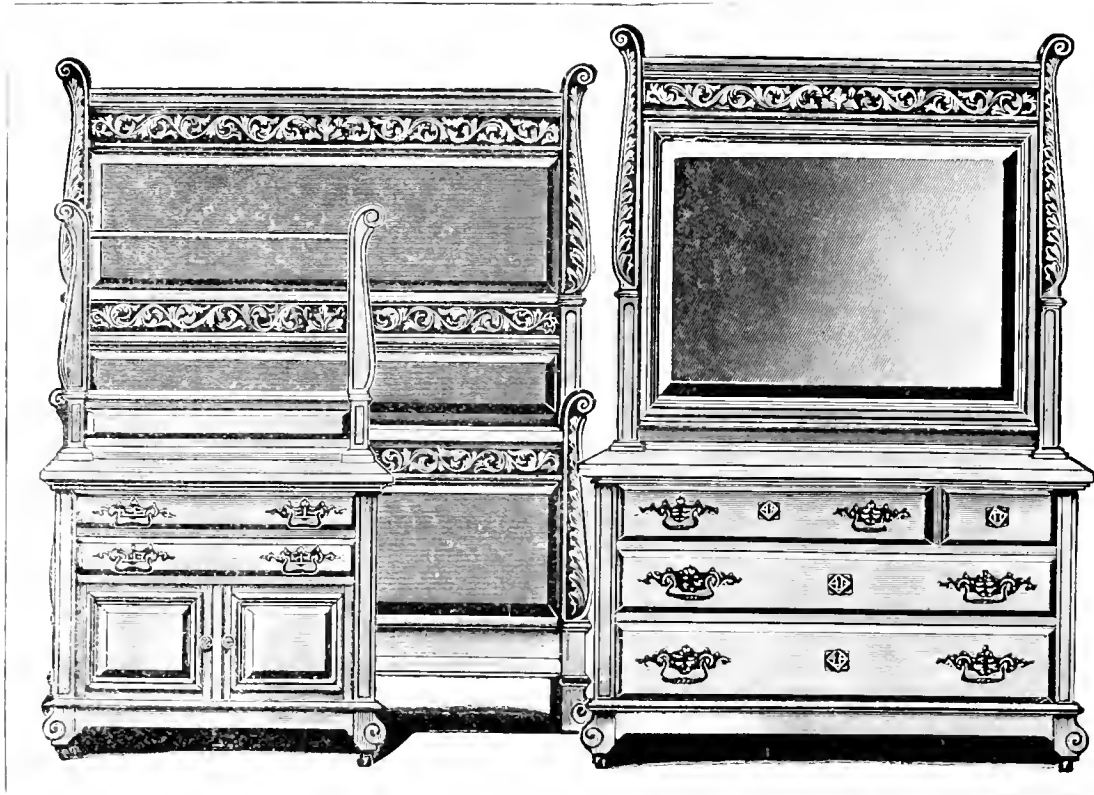
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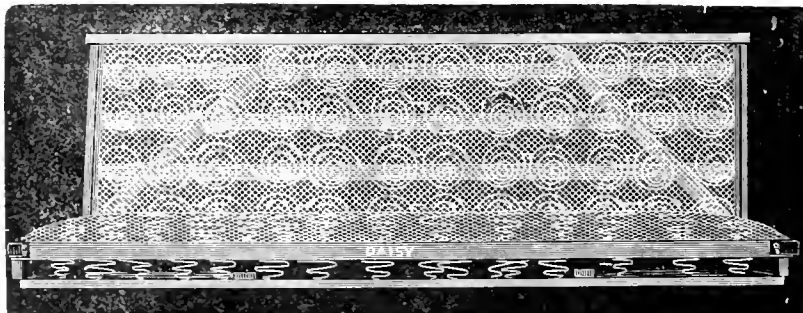
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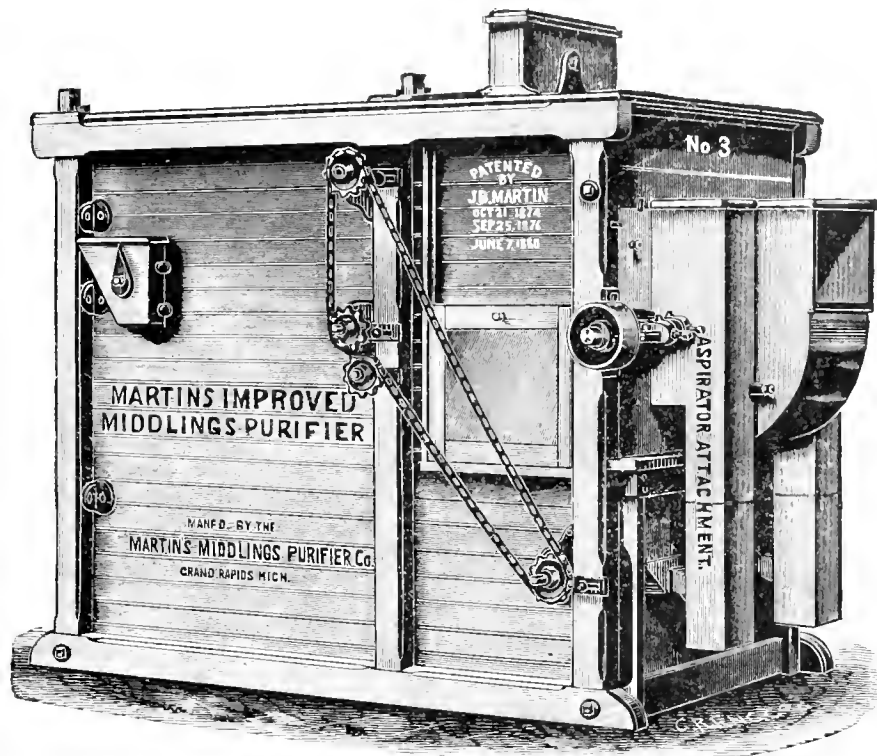
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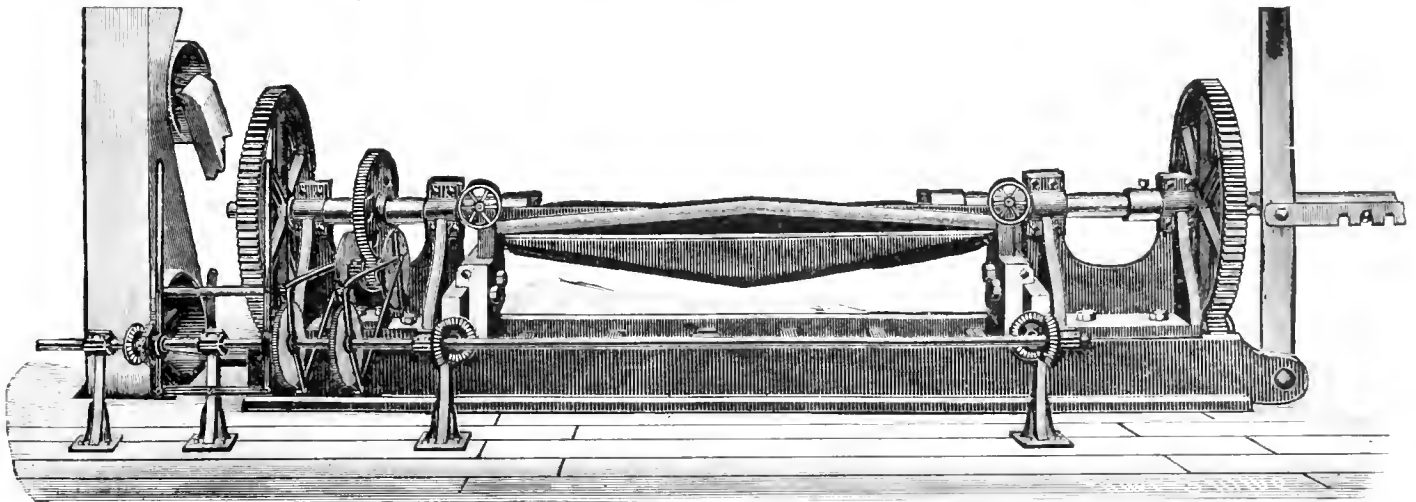
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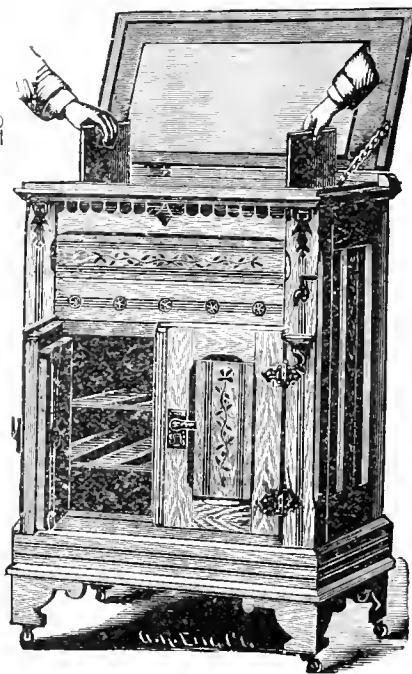
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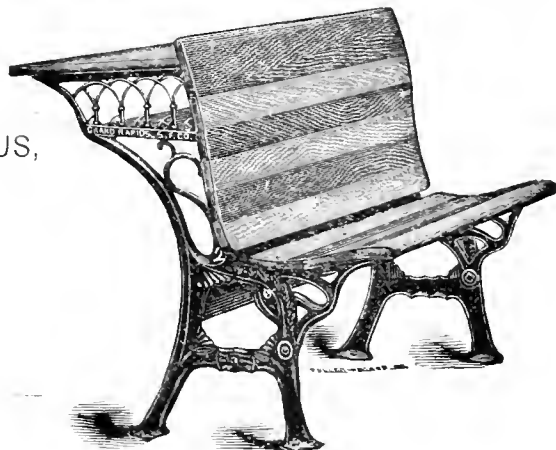
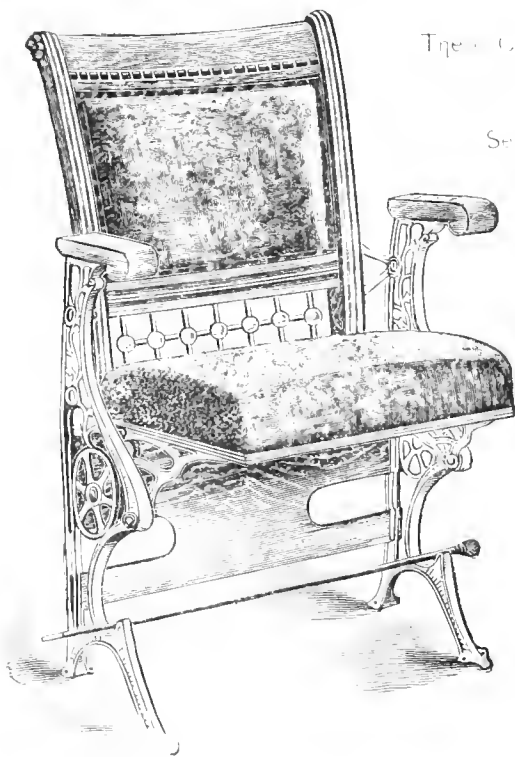
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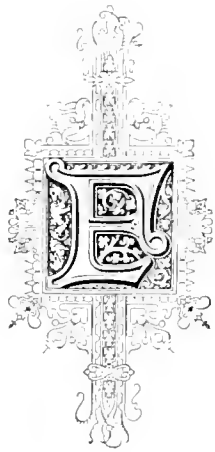
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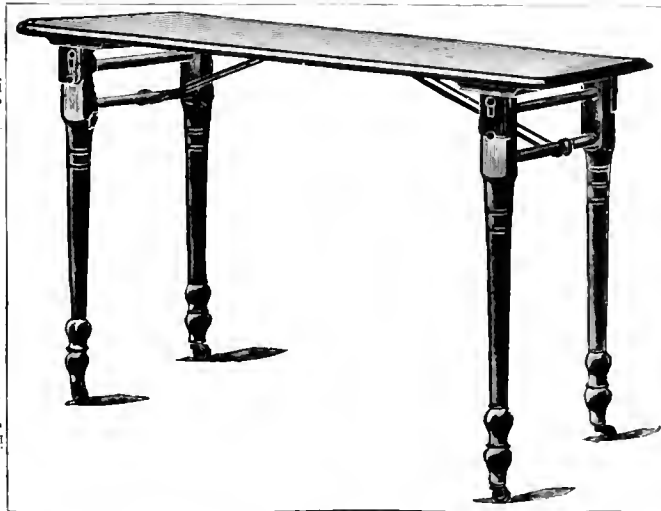
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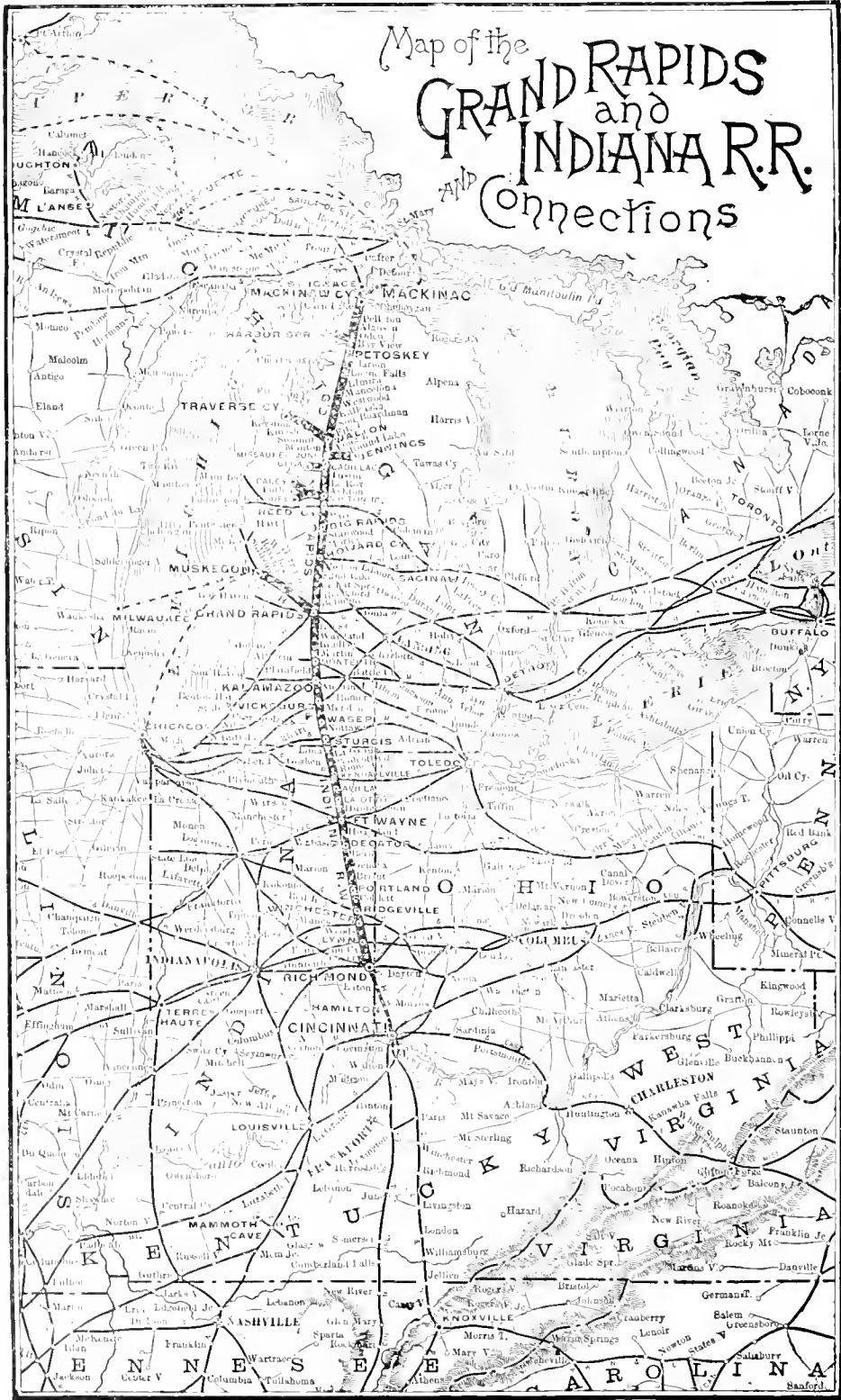
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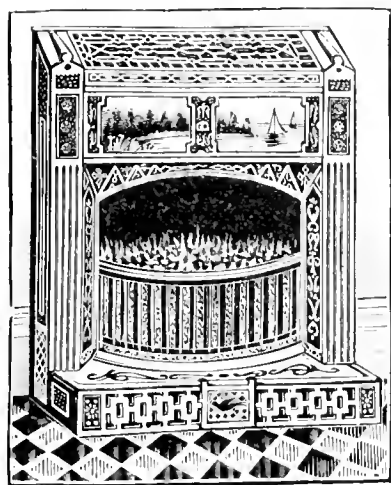
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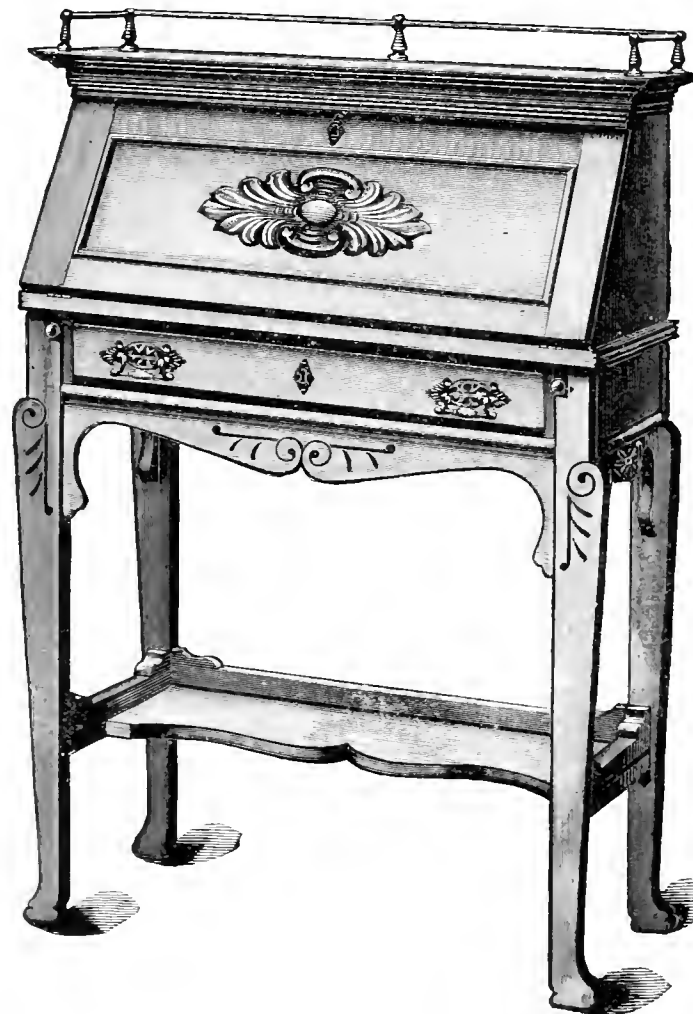
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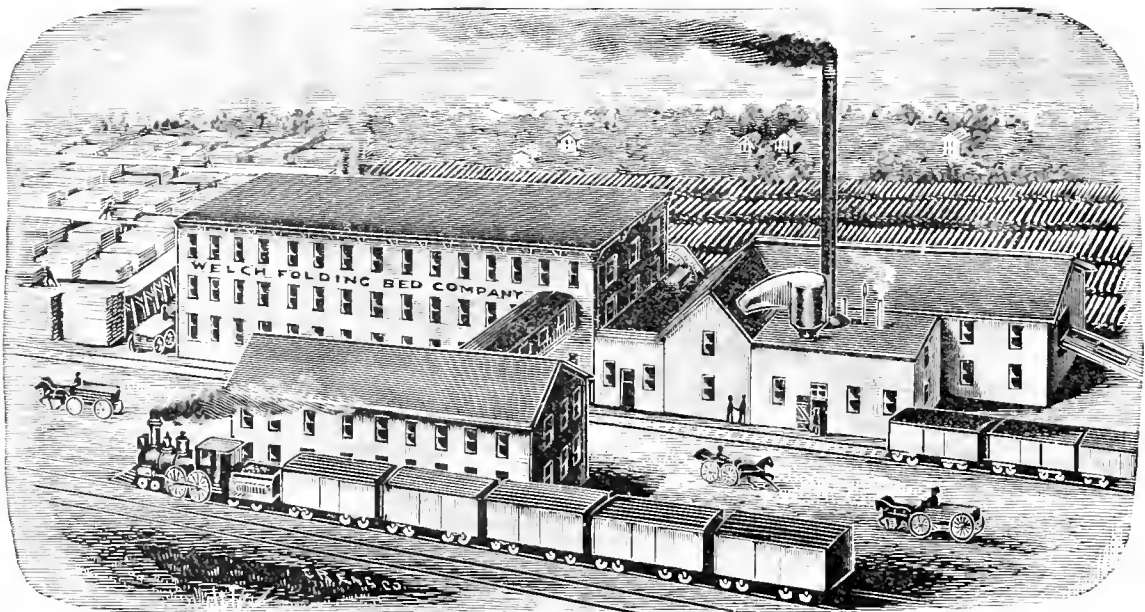
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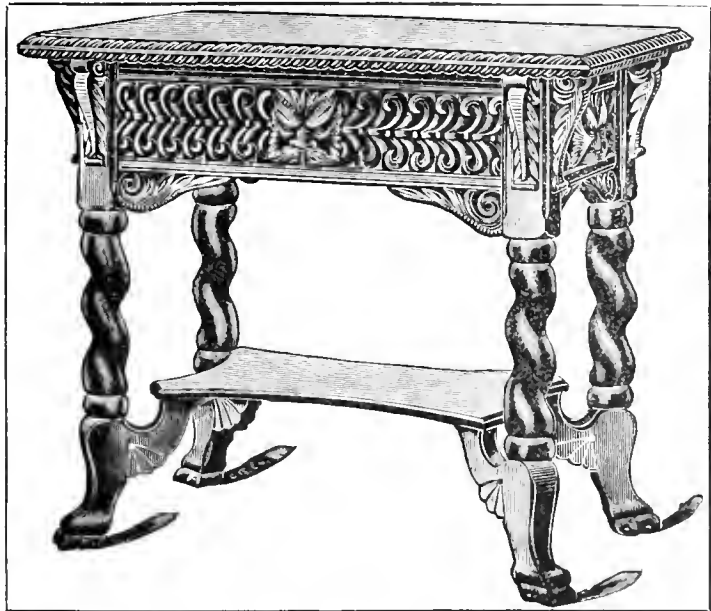
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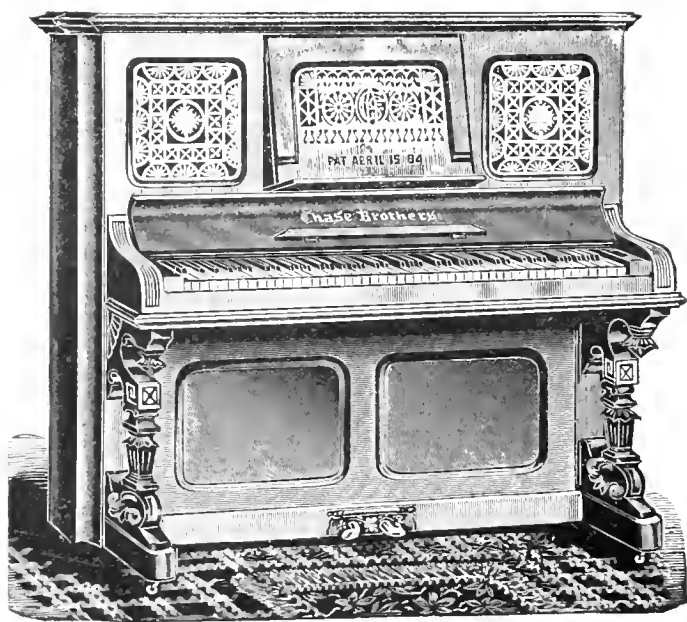
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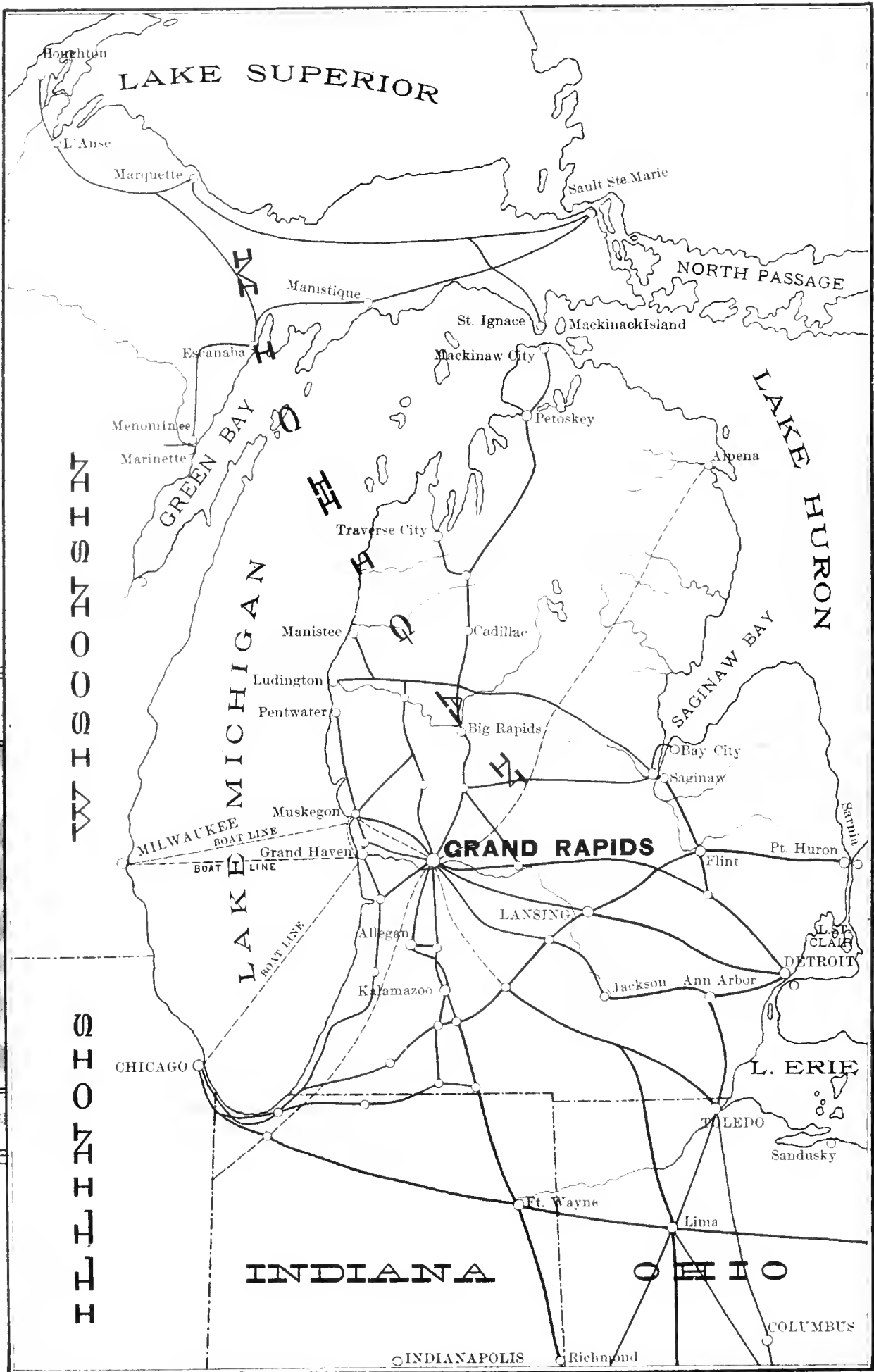
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